

THE TIMES

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Bank's final building block in place

Brown vows to break stop-go cycle

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A PERIOD of consistently low inflation to break out of the stop-go economic cycle of the past was promised by Gordon Brown last night, in an acknowledgement that interest rates might have to rise further.

The Chancellor, delivering his first Mansion House speech, explained how he intended to hold the Bank of England to account month-by-month to ensure that his target of 2.5 per cent inflation was observed.

The "final building block" of his monetary policy reform was to require Eddie George, the Bank Governor, to write an open letter of explanation whenever inflation misses the target by 1 per cent either way. He will have to say what he and the new monetary policy committee are doing to deal with the "miss", and when they expect the rate to get back on target. It is still out of line after three months, the Governor will have to write to the Chancellor again.

Although the Chancellor has given the Bank operational responsibility for interest rates, his message was clear when he said that the monetary committee had already shown it was prepared to take the action necessary to keep the lid on inflation - it put up rates by a quarter point at its first meeting last week.

The clear implication was that further increases would follow if necessary. Demand in the British economy was growing faster, but because the economy suffered from a long-term lack of investment in skills, the recovery needed to proceed steadily to avoid a rebound inflation. That was why he had raised interest rates on taking office.

Three weeks from his first Budget on July 2, Mr Brown also underlined his determination to keep a tight rein on spending and told public sector unions they would have to show restraint. "Just as we will resist any other irresponsible demand on public



Brown: "open letter" policy on inflation

spending, we will resist irresponsible public sector pay demands," he said.

Mr Brown - who again spurned City tradition by wearing a lounge suit when everyone else apart from his two advisers wore black tie - said: "We must break out of the stop-go cycle under which every time we expand, capacity constraints and under-investment trigger inflationary pressures."

"We need to lock into our economic policy a commitment to consistently low inflation over the long term. Real stability is achieved not when we meet a target one or two months in a row, but when we can confidently expect inflation to be consistently low for a long period of time."

His new system of holding the Bank accountable was rigorous, precise and open and would enable it to deliver the target consistently over the long-term. It was the final building block in his reform of monetary policy.

The aim of the change was to ensure the public was fully informed if there was a failure to hit the target and told what would happen to put it right. However, the 2.5 per cent target is a slight variation on the previous Government's "2.5 per cent or less". There had been concerns that adopt-

ing that formula might have encouraged the Bank to be excessively deflationary.

The move was derided earlier in the Commons by Kenneth Clarke, the Shadow Chancellor, who claimed it masked a loosening of the criteria for controlling inflation. And as he arrived - in a dinner jacket - at Mansion House last night, he said: "Gordon is far too anxious about making big policy changes and far too anxious about criticism. I think he should leave well alone."

Malcolm Bruce of the Liberal Democrats also said that the new formula amounted to a new target range of 1.5 to 3.5 per cent. But Mr Brown insisted: "I have tightened up the framework. I have made it more rigorous and I have made it more open. The range under the previous Government was 1 to 4.5 per cent."

Mr George, also speaking at the Mansion House, said that he was determined to achieve the target, but replied to fears that the Bank might risk damaging growth. He said that he was well aware that some observers had been concerned the Bank would adopt an unduly cautious approach that could unnecessarily restrict economic growth.

"That will not be our intention. The new inflation target makes it very clear that, in setting policy, we are to aim consistently at 2.5 per cent as a mid-point. And that, of course, is what we will endeavour to do. The measure of our success will be how close we come to 2.5 per cent on average over time."

The annual headline rate of inflation rose to 2.6 per cent in May compared with 2.4 per cent in the previous month, according to figures published by the Office for National Statistics yesterday. But the underlying rate, which excludes mortgage costs, held steady at 2.5 per cent.

Economic view, page 29



Camilla Parker Bowles returning home from Highgrove House yesterday and, below right, Carolyn Melville-Smith

Parker Bowles 'drove crash car like missile'

By Joanna Bale

AN INTERIOR designer involved in a head-on car crash with Camilla Parker Bowles claimed yesterday that the Prince of Wales's close friend had been driving her car "like a missile".

Carolyn Melville-Smith, 53, who was not injured in the accident near the Prince's Gloucestershire home, Highgrove House, also claimed that Mrs Parker Bowles had walked to a higher point in the road to get a better reception on her mobile telephone so that she could summon help for Ms Melville-Smith. She was then taken to Highgrove by royal protection officers without returning to the scene.

Ms Melville-Smith said yesterday: "The car came at me like a missile. I think we saw each other at the same blind-spot second. There was no time to think."

on its side in a ditch and I could not get out. She came to see if I was OK, but then started to walk away. I shouted to her that I was stuck and she started to run."

Ms Melville-Smith was helped from her car by passers-by before the emergency services arrived. She said: "A couple stopped their car to help me and another chap yanked the door open. When

the ambulance and police arrived, they asked me where the other driver was. I was at the scene for about an hour and I did not see her. I had no idea who she was."

Ms Melville-Smith said she would be claiming compensation for the damage to her Volvo estate car from Mrs Parker Bowles's insurance company. She added: "In my opinion, the accident was her fault because she was going too fast for a country lane which is too narrow for two cars to pass. I was only doing about 30mph and had pulled over to let another car past about ten seconds before. I am very lucky that I was not hurt, although I have to go for a chest X-ray as a check-up."

The crash happened on Wednesday at Norton, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, just after 8pm as Mrs Parker Bowles was on her way to supper with the Prince at Highgrove House, four miles away. Ms Melville-Smith, of nearby Easton Grey, was on her way to meet friends.

Wiltshire police confirmed yesterday that Mrs Parker Bowles had been alone in the car. Continued on page 2, col 4



"Tragic really - the cars missed him but he got rammed on by a woman running the other way"

Patients could face 'hotel' bill for stay in hospital

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

PLANS to charge patients to see their GP and pay "hotel" bills while they are in hospital will be considered as part of the Government's comprehensive review of National Health Service funding.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, confirmed that the review would also consider whether pensioners should be forced to pay at least part of their prescription charges.

Nothing could be ruled out in the review, Mr Dobson said after telling the Institute of Health Services Management annual conference that its members had to make £80 million in savings on bureaucracy this year. "We are going to look at anything that has to be looked at as long as it is intellectually honest," he said.

Mr Dobson told the health managers that 69 of 100 health authorities and 125 out of the 425 NHS trusts began this financial year in debt. Waiting lists were rising and the time spent on waiting lists was going up. Emergencies would have to take priority over everything else.

Karen Caines, director of the institute, in his response, said: "They are in a terrible mess with £300 million in deficit that has to be cleared away. Waiting lists are already rising and now they say emergencies must have priority. That can only mean waiting lists will grow further."

Charges for seeing GPs could be similar to those that patients on the NHS now pay to dentists. This could mean that a call to a surgery might be up to £10 a visit, with a £15 charge if the doctor makes a home visit.

"Hotel" charges in hospitals would probably be in line with low grade bed-and-breakfast, an average of £30 a night.

£50m savings call, page 7

Wedding 'still on'

The Albanian waitress who has been blamed over the stabbing of her boyfriend, British diplomat Geoffrey Briggs, said yesterday that the couple still planned to marry. Page 3

Mozart 'finds'

Two obscure 18th-century operas were substantially ghost-written by Mozart, an American music historian has claimed. Page 15

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Robinson next UN human rights chief

From James Bone in New York

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, last night appointed Mary Robinson, the Irish President, as his new High Commissioner for Human Rights.

But he surprised diplomats by saying that he wanted Mrs Robinson to cut short her seven-year term as President and take up the post before the next UN General Assembly convenes in September. Her term runs out in December.

"Mrs Robinson understands the urgency and the need to fill the job," he said.

Mrs Robinson, a former civil liberties lawyer and constitutional scholar, succeeds José Ayala-Lasso from Ecuador, who quit earlier this year to become Foreign Minister of his country.

Mr Annan described Mrs Robinson as "an extraordinary leader who... will bring dynamism and credibility to the human rights centre".

Although Mrs Robinson has stayed away from the Northern Ireland peace pro-

cess, some have suggested that she might become a useful mediator in the province after taking up a UN post.

Dick Spring, the Deputy Irish Prime Minister, last night indicated the Government would allow Mrs Robinson to leave early. "My reaction is one of great joy. This is an honour for President Robinson and for Ireland," he said.



Robinson: her role an "honour for Ireland"

Straw must decide on Bulger case

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

JACK STRAW was last night facing his first crucial decision as Home Secretary after the Law Lords ruled that his predecessor was wrong to increase the minimum prison sentence imposed on the boys convicted of killing James Bulger.

Mr Straw must now decide whether to impose his own minimum term or leave it at ten years, allowing their case to be reviewed in 2½ years. If he does not intervene, the boys could be released by 2003.

This would spark anger on Merseyside where yesterday the parents of James Bulger said they were bitterly disappointed that the Law Lords had ruled that Michael Howard was wrong to set a minimum of 15 years.

Lord's ruling, page 4
Leading article, page 21
Law Report, page 37

Farming Today may be set aside

Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

RADIO 4's *Farming Today* programme faces being moved or scrapped to make way for an extended version of the flagship news programme *Today* which would be broadcast seven days a week, it emerged yesterday.

James Boyle, the Radio 4 controller, is considering plans to start *Today* at 6am instead of 6.30am. He is also planning to introduce a Sunday version, which may spell the end of the long-running *Sunday* programme, which focuses on religious affairs.

The BBC yesterday refused to comment on the plans but said a review of Radio 4 programming was continuing. Mr Boyle is considering the scheduling of many Radio 4 programmes including *The Archers*, *Sport on 4*, *Breakaway* and *Kaleidoscope*. He has indicated that none is sacrosanct.

Farming Today, which was a favourite of Baroness Thatcher's, is the only BBC radio programme dedicated to

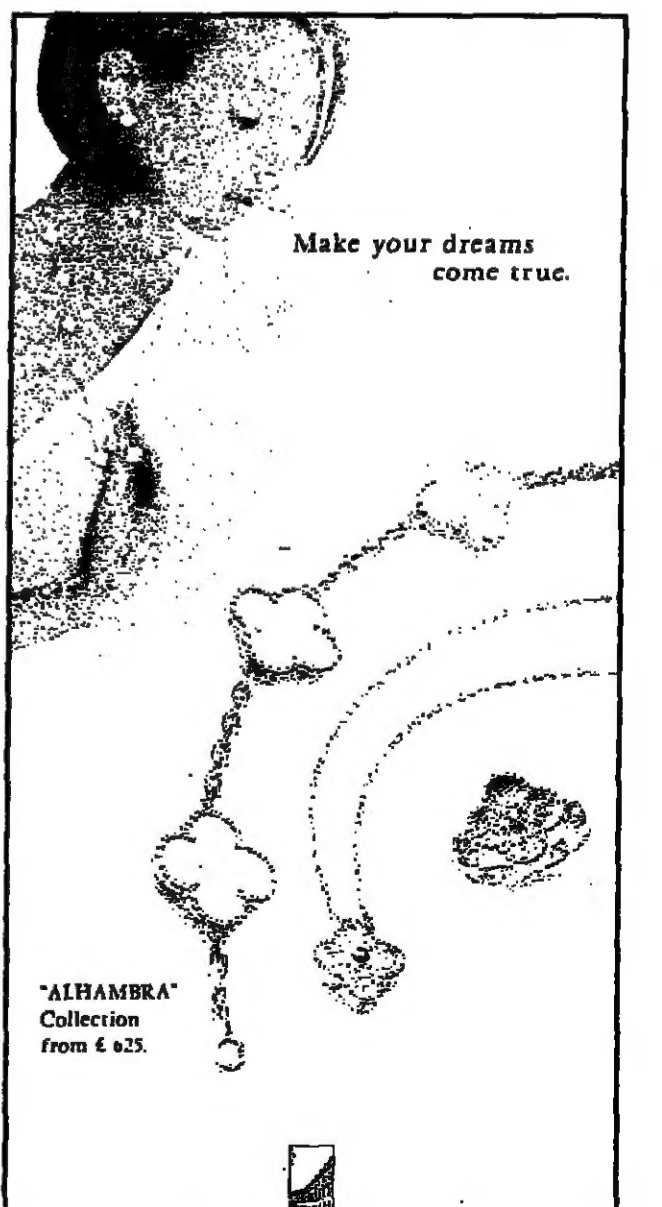
farming issues. A BBC insider said that as the programme, which began in 1964, had such a loyal following it was unlikely to be axed completely.

Seven years ago there was an outcry from farmers when Radio 4 announced it was changing the broadcasting schedule of *Farming Today*. Producers said people were listening to the radio earlier and did not want to hear about market prices.

In 1995 an all-party group of MPs tabled a motion opposing changes to *Farming Today* amid fears that it had been so successful at attracting a wider audience that producers would be tempted to move it.

Trevor Hayes, chief spokesman for the National Farmers' Union, said: "The demise of *Farming Today* would cause great concern."

Philip Stephens, a beef farmer in Cornwall, said: "We do not have time to read all the papers and the trade press, so the programme is an easy way of keeping abreast."



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Smouldering Gordon becomes Chamber's only hot spot

IF politics could be charted as those heat maps tracking infra-red emissions, we might get some sense of where things that mattered were happening. A Whitehall committee here, a critical vote in the Commons there, a whips' conversation in a corridor upstairs or a slim European directive slipped onto the table when nobody was looking, would suddenly pulse with significance — and show up purple on the map.

For most of this session the Commons chamber would not

have featured on the map. It has not felt like the place to be. We sense that whatever is happening is happening somewhere else, in Tony Blair's kitchen perhaps. Ministers have been reluctant to share their news with the House, and yesterday the Speaker granted her second Private Notice Question: a device whereby a backbencher can force a minister to make a Statement to MPs. On Miss Boothroyd's say-so, Teddy Taylor (C, Rochford & Southend E) obliged the Agriculture

Minister Jack Cunningham to come to the House to update MPs on BSE. In fact Mr Cunningham had no difficulty. In his lazy but fluent way he hit questions for easy twos and fours. Cunningham is deceptively adroit. He is using an implied threat to trigger a British health scare — over imported beef — as a bargaining chip with Europe, and, yesterday, MPs let him get away with it, though the Liberal Democrat Agriculture Spokesman Paul Tyler demonstrated again his



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

sure grasp. Only at Treasury Questions did onlookers gain any sense that our political heat map might be pulsing briefly. Obscure as the subject of their spat might be, as Kenneth Clarke squared up to the Chancellor a trace of tension crackled in the close afternoon air. Some of us have never seen Kenneth Clarke

sitting up before. Gordon Brown shows command, but tends to witter when cornered and weary when flattered. Pouting, smouldering Mr Brown, "Britain's sexiest bachelor" (*The Guardian*), might have rewarded fawning backbencher Anne Campbell (Cambridge) with better than a tired reprise of the denunciation of his predecessors which seems to characterise almost every Government response in the Commons so far.

Labour are entitled to gloat but sooner or later ministers will have to justify their hopes rather than denounce their inheritance. They are not rising to this challenge. Other ministers on the Treasury Front Bench included Chief Secretary Alistair Darling and Financial Secretary Dawn Primarolo, undoubtedly Britain's sexiest Financial Secretary, has a verbal style as distracting as her appearance is composed. Every syll-

able seems to breathe re-approach. Adopting the manner of an insolent telephonist or angry spokesperson for a 'cyclists' action group, she looked resentful and 'surprised' when Tory MPs howled at her refusal to assure David Heathcote-Amory (Wells) that a promise to lift VAT on energy-saving devices would be honoured.

There would be a review, she protested. Naturally, a review. Another Thursday, another review.

Harman opens way for single mothers to return to work

By JILL SHERMAN AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

HARRIET HARMAN pledged yesterday that the Government would "tear down the barriers" between lone mothers and the workplace as she claimed that children of working single parents do better than those who stay at home. The Social Security Secretary outlined a series of measures to get lone parents into jobs as she argued that nine out of ten mothers wanted to work. More than one million lone mothers are now dependent on benefit costing the Government over £10 billion a year. Ms Harman and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, are determined to use some of the £3 billion to be raised from the windfall tax on helping these mothers into work.

Ms Harman detailed a range of measures to help lone mothers, including inviting them to jobcentres for careers guidance and ensuring that absent fathers paid proper maintenance. Frank Field, her deputy, is said to be considering the use of financial penalties if women fail to take up jobs but so far that has not been proposed.

Addressing the Institute



Harman: put forward five-point programme

Harman called for an end to "scapegoating" of single mothers, both in and out of work, saying the breadwinning father and stay-at-home mother was no longer the only family model. She reopened the argument about whether mothers should stay at home to look after children after claiming that if lone parents worked, their children would have a better chance in life. Daughters of working single mothers were, for example, likely to do better at school and less likely to become lone parents, she suggested.

Ms Harman's approach, welcomed by one-parent organisations, was a clear signal that the Government rejects the arguments of some traditionalists that putting children in day care while mothers go to work is harmful for their health or education.

Ms Harman, a mother of three, set out five proposals to help single mothers into work: ☐ inviting lone mothers to a jobcentre for advice on job-seeking, training and childcare, when their youngest children were in the second term of full-time education;

☐ a national childcare strategy, including a network of after-school clubs to care for children while parents are at work;

☐ bringing together help and advice for lone mothers, to save them tramping from one office to another;

☐ helping lone mothers to balance their responsibilities as parents with their aspirations to get the right skills to find work;

☐ ensuring that absent fathers paid proper maintenance. The speech was welcomed by lone-parent organisations but they said the programme had to be underpinned by more childcare. Lucy Lloyd of the Day Care Trust said: "More than one third of lone parents say that they find the lack of childcare the main barrier to them finding work."

John Lloyd, page 20

Britain trailing in childcare provision

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JUST 41 per cent of lone mothers in Britain are employed, compared with 82 per cent in France, 87 per cent in Japan and 70 per cent in Sweden. In Europe, only Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland have lower employment rates.

Unlike many other countries, Britain has little statutory childcare provision and no subsidy, tax allowance or benefit to help mothers with childcare. The limited number of public childcare places available are for children deemed to be "at risk". While the public education system

provides places for more than half the children aged three to five, the opening hours are limited and do not allow lone mothers to work full-time.

Lucy Lloyd, of the Day Care Trust, which is campaigning for better day care provision, said that only 27,000 families had financial help with childcare. She said that there needed to be an investment in childcare and more places. The Homework Clubs being promoted by the Government were only a partial solution and provided places for only one in 200 of the children that needed them.



Skid marks on the road near Malmesbury show where the crash happened

Parker Bowles car crash

Continued from page 1

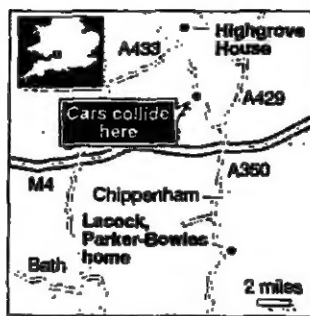
car at the time, as was Ms Melville-Smith. A spokesman said: "Both women were unhurt, but suffered from shock. At this stage, as in any other accident, traffic officers will make a report. There is no obligation to stay at the scene of an accident, only to report it unless insurance details are exchanged. Both women were breathalysed but the results were negative."

Police sources said there were no independent witnesses, so charges were unlikely.

Mrs Parker Bowles stayed overnight at Highgrove House before returning to her home near Lacock, Wiltshire, yesterday morning.

Buckingham Palace said: "The accident is a matter for the police."

A youth worker criticised Buckingham Palace yesterday for refusing to tell her why the



Princess Royal cancelled an official engagement minutes before she was due to arrive.

Sue Welling, senior youth worker for Greenwich Youth Aid, southeast London, said that she was surprised and disappointed that she was told only that the visit had been cancelled because of "unforeseen circumstances".

The Princess was to have unveiled a plaque and to have met young people with special

needs at the Herongate Centre in Thamesmead, West. Ms Welling said: "Many of the youngsters were in tears. Without a proper reason it was difficult to explain why she could not come. Some of them even asked whether it was because they are special needs youngsters."

"I was taken aback and did not quite believe it when they said she was not coming, but then did not give a reason. We had spent a lot of time planning the visit and it cost us several hundreds of pounds, but the human cost was much more. Many of the parents are very annoyed."

The Princess had accepted the invitation as patron of the Association of Combined Youth Clubs.

The Palace declined to comment on speculation that there may have been a security alert.

Head teachers face five-year contracts

The Government, which is to suggest the introduction of fixed-term contracts of possibly five years for head teachers, is likely to meet resistance from the profession. The idea was first suggested by the Conservative Government, but was never imposed.

Ministers have emphasised the paramount role of head teachers in school leadership and are planning a compulsory qualification for all new heads and deputies. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said his members would resist fixed-term contracts as a "considerable reduction of their employment rights".

Church gets Parliament man

Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, has been appointed Second Church Estates Commissioner, the last post to be filled in the new government. Mr Bell, 59, a barrister and a confirmed member of the Church of England, will serve as the main link between Parliament and the Church Commission, which manages the £3 billion assets of the Church of England. The post is unpaid.

Republican terrorist jailed

Michael Hegarty, a former member of the breakaway group Republican Sinn Féin, was jailed for ten years yesterday by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin for having 14 tons of explosives in a van bomb and in outposts near the Ulster border in November 1995, during the IRA ceasefire. Hegarty, 45, refused to recognise the court and remained silent during the three-day hearing.

Stowaways to be deported

Four men who stowed away on a London-bound Channel Tunnel train are to be deported to France. "They were refused permission to have their cases heard in Britain based on the long-established principle that asylum-seekers should seek protection in the first safe country they arrive in," a Home Office spokeswoman said. The men, from Moldova, hid in a compartment below the floor of the train.

Action by drivers halts trains

Hundreds of trains run by Conner South Central into London will be cancelled today and at the weekend because of industrial action by drivers over new working practices. The services affected are from Victoria and London Bridge to Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. A total of 435 trains, almost a third, will be cancelled tomorrow and a further 179 will not complete their normal journeys.

Blairs go alone to Balmoral

The Prime Minister and his wife will spend their first weekend at Balmoral in late summer but neither their three children nor Princes William and Harry will attend. The Blair children, who were included in the invitation from the Queen, will already be back at school and their parents are known to be keen to protect them from excessive publicity.

Lesbian teacher sentenced

A former PE teacher who beat up a pupil in a row over a lesbian affair was ordered yesterday to do 200 hours' community service. Gym mistress Ceri Bevan, 29, was also told to pay the 18-year-old £250 compensation and pay a further £400 in court costs. Cardiff Crown Court Judge Peter Jacobs told her: "You can think yourself lucky that you are not going to prison."

Oyston given right to appeal

The media tycoon Owen Oyston was given permission to appeal against his conviction for the rape and indecent assault of a 16-year-old model. Oyston, 63, former chairman of Blackpool Football Club, was jailed for six years at Liverpool Crown Court last year. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said two matters warranted fresh consideration.

Four hurt in chemical blaze

Four people were hurt and families evacuated from their homes after a fire and explosions destroyed Sun Chemicals in Slough, Berkshire. Thousands of people were warned to remain indoors to avoid toxic fumes. Rail services between Paddington and Wales and the West were halted by thick smoke across the tracks. The injured, including a fireman, were treated in hospital and released.

Blair to seek better protection for witnesses of crime

By RICHARD FORD
HOVIL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister will announce plans today for improved protection of witnesses in the hope of encouraging more people to report crime and be willing to give evidence.

He is also to give additional cash to Victim Support, which was created to look after victims of crime. The charity runs schemes in Crown Courts to help witnesses and victims.

Mr Blair will present the Govern-

ment's latest proposals when he travels to the Midlands for his first meet-the-people road show, which will be dedicated to law and order. His "Question Time" in the country will be taken place before 130 men and women chosen by government officials because of their interest in law and order.

The Prime Minister will tell his audience that a full review of the protection offered to witnesses will be set up and that he will urge police and local authorities to make greater

use of witness statements on an anonymous basis.

The Government also wants changes to court procedures to give judges and magistrates greater powers to ensure that witness give evidence without fear of reprisal or intimidation. It is understood that ministers would like more witnesses to be able to give evidence from behind screens or by video link.

Ministers are also planning to extend witness protection legislation to cover civil cases because of the

increase in intimidation. At present the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act only makes it an offence to harm or intimidate a witness in a criminal case.

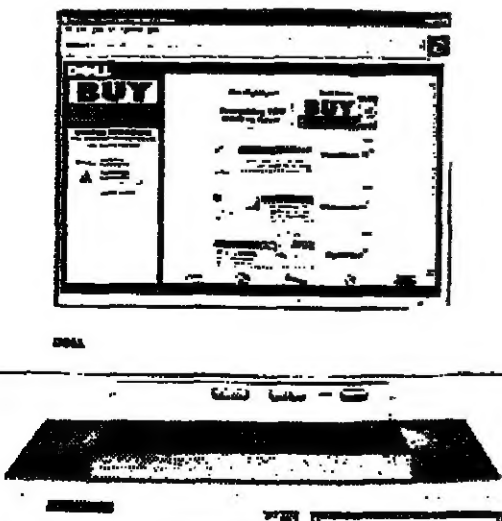
The Government's desire to provide greater protection for witnesses follows a Home Office study which found that, on housing estates where there is a lot of crime, 13 per cent of cases reported by victims and 9 per cent reported by witnesses resulted in people being intimidated. The study found a general unwillingness of the

public to come forward as witnesses, particularly where they were not the victim. Less than one third of people interviewed had reported crimes against others.

Last night the Home Office published figures showing that the number of police officers in England and Wales had risen by 257 in the 12 months to the end of March, whereas the Tory Government had promised a rise of 1,000. The total strength of the police was 127,158, of which 98,132 were constables.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997



Purslow: legal privilege

Oyster firm to shell out £100,000 in libel costs

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN OYSTER company is facing a £100,000 legal bill after a judge ruled that a food hygienist was entitled wrongly to blame it for supplying bad oysters to an hotel.

Colchester Oyster Fisheries had sued Christopher Purslow for libel after he wrote a report in 1992 naming them as the suppliers of native oysters which caused food poisoning among diners at the Ritz.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Eady, at the High Court, ruled that the shellfish responsible were Pacific oysters from Cork harbour. However, while there was no evidence to suggest that Colchester Oyster Fisheries had supplied that type of oyster to the Ritz that month, Mr Purslow's report blaming them was covered by qualified privilege.

This meant that everyone who received the report had a legitimate right to see it; and, because it was not malicious, it ruled out any action in libel against the author. The judge said that he understood the frustration of the oyster company but his decision was bound by law.

In December 1991 a party of eight had eaten in the Ritz dining room, consuming salad of warm oyster. Twenty-four hours later the organiser and six of her guests were seriously unwell. A week later, 20 diners ate the same menu and eight became ill. Mr Purslow, who was employed on a retainer by the Ritz, was called in to investigate.

He said yesterday that he was relieved the libel action had come to an end and the judge had recognised the right of food professionals to carry out investigations without the threat of libel actions.

"The judge's decision recognises that I acted in a responsible manner," he said. "I marked my report 'private and confidential' and restricted its circulation to those persons who had a clear interest in the information it contained. I have never believed that my report contained anything defamatory of the Colchester Oyster Fisheries."

He loves me and we will still marry, says girlfriend of stabbed diplomat

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

THE Albanian waitress blamed over the stabbing of her boyfriend, a British diplomat, said yesterday that the couple still planned to marry. "I will not say what happened. I don't remember," Olsa Seiko said.

The stormy events of Monday morning culminated in Geoffrey Briggs, a second secretary, being flown from Tirana to hospital in Brindisi, Italy. "I spoke to him today on the telephone and he told me he loves me," Miss Seiko said.

The Foreign Office has maintained a stony silence, commenting only that Mr Briggs's injuries were not connected with the precarious political situation in Albania. Yesterday a security guard was posted outside the villa the couple shared near the Swiss Embassy. An angry friend of Ms Seiko's ripped a film from a cameraman attempting to photograph her. Another cameraman was threatened with assault and several more films were snatched and exposed.

The only other person known to have been in the villa at the time of the stabbing, around 5.30 on Monday morning, was David Bicker, a junior diplomat. He, too, has been bound to silence by the Foreign Office but laughed at suggestions that he had stabbed Mr Briggs.

Ms Seiko, sporting a Calvin Klein baseball cap and black dungarees, looked pale and tense yesterday. The 21-year-old, who was brought up in an orphanage but now rubs shoulders with the Tirana elite, said she believed Mr Briggs would soon be moved to Britain to convalesce.

"I want to be with him there," she said. She travelled to Britain with Mr Briggs last year, visiting his parents near Milton Keynes.

Ms Seiko said she had emerged from hiding to let her side of the story be known. "How can I hurt the man I

love?" she asked. She spoke with sadness of the child she had lost a month ago. Mr Briggs, she said, was upset. "We'd told so many people about it. We were looking forward to having a family."

Acquaintances of the couple, however, spoke of a stormy relationship. One diplomat said Ms Seiko had once broken a chair over Mr Briggs's head and there had been arguments over his postponement of the marriage. "We planned to get married... lots of people have complications," Ms Seiko said.

Diplomatic sources in Tirana were sceptical about media speculation that Mr Briggs had been attacked by an intruder, possibly linked to Albania's secret services. The villa was broken into recently but American diplomats said they had no evidence to suggest the secret police entered foreigners' houses.

Ms Seiko remembered going out onto the balcony and finding Mr Briggs there bleeding. "Of course I didn't say anything - I went to get help," she said. An Albanian friend drove the couple to the military hospital at Rinas airport, from where Mr Briggs was flown to Brindisi. "I wanted to go with him but I didn't have a visa," Ms Seiko said.

Local journalists have suggested that Mr Briggs was attacked by a member of Ms Seiko's family. In a closed society like Albania, fidelity is sacred and postponing a marriage could lead to trouble. "The brothers and cousins could soon be round," one friend said.

Ms Seiko was brought up in an orphanage near the American embassy after her parents divorced. She stayed there between the ages of six and fourteen before going to Italy, where she worked as a waitress in a village near Milan.

On moving back to Tirana she had been taken in by Mehmet Hafizi, the director of the orphanage. "She was a pretty girl," he recalled. "I think she lived with an Italian - he telephoned a few times after she had come back but then it stopped." Ms Seiko worked as a waitress in a fish restaurant, the Rozafa, where she met Mr Briggs. Later she worked in the Rogner Hotel.

The stabbing of Mr Briggs has done nothing for the image of the British Embassy in Tirana, whose evacuation of Britons and other nationals during the Albanian crisis in March was a fiasco. The group was trapped on Durres beach for a night as rebels ran riot, stealing most of the embassy's cars. Mr Briggs was in charge of the operation.

Mr Bicker, who comes from Bradford, is grimly coping as best he can in the absence of Andrew Tesoriere, the ambas-



Geoffrey Briggs in hospital in Brindisi. The couple were said to have argued after he postponed the wedding

sador. The embassy hopes life will return to normal next week when it celebrates the Queen's birthday.

An acquaintance of Mr Bicker and Mr Briggs described the two men as good mates. "They were just having a night in with some beers and a video, and then Mr Bicker went to sleep in the guest room. Olsa came back from a party - who knows what happened after that?"

Ms Seiko said that she and Mr Briggs would return to the Tirana cocktail circuit as soon as possible. "We still love one another and plan to marry," she said, putting on dark glasses and marching down the street with her minder.

"We have lived together as husband and wife for the past year."

Desert golf promoter held in Dubai faces bribe charges

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH businessman held in Dubai since March has been charged with bribery. The United Arab Emirates announced the charges last night against George Atkinson, 45, who organised and promoted the Professional Golfers' Association European Tour tournament, the Desert Classic.

Mr Atkinson faces two sets of charges: he is charged with offering bribes to Stephen Trutch, an employee of the Dubai government, and as-

sisting him to receive the bribes. The embassy says that this charge was laid the day after Mr Atkinson's arrest on March 1, although his solicitors insist that neither he nor they were told of charges for more than 12 weeks.

The embassy also says that on April 5 Mr Atkinson was charged with conspiring with and assisting Mr Trutch to obtain unlawful commissions and to obtain unlawful prof-

its for himself and Mr Trutch. The details were revealed in a statement from the UAE embassy in London, which was clearly prompted by reports that Mr Atkinson was being held without charge. However the embassy had previously been unable to respond to inquiries about what Mr Atkinson was charged with.

Mr Atkinson's wife Helene, 49, and her two teenage daughters are said to be distraught.

Mother of all feuds at society for family harmony

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION
CORRESPONDENT

THE Mothers' Union, the Anglican society dedicated to preserving marriage and family life, has been riven by internal feuds and the resignation of three of its senior officials.

Christine Eames, the worldwide president of the Mothers' Union who is also wife of the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev Robert Eames, has failed to be elected for a second term of office.

Lady Eames was elected three years ago to serve her first term, and by convention stood unopposed for a second term. But she did not achieve the necessary 50 per cent of the votes from the 372 Mothers' Union members entitled to vote.

She is now expected to stand again for re-election. But nominations, which must be in by next Friday, have been opened up, making it possible that she could become the first ever sitting president to be opposed in an election to head the society.

Lady Eames said she had allowed her name to go forward for re-election only after a great deal of thought and prayer. She added: "Every new situation is a learning one and only a fool would fail to learn from it. But we have been implementing new structures and it has been a slow stage. There is always a difficulty when there is a need to move forward, and yet take people with us."

According to today's *Church Times*, her failure to win a second term has left the society in turmoil. The situation has been exacerbated by a decision by the editor of the society's magazine, *Home & Family*, to resign after "significant difficulties" in working relations with one of the unpaid trustees, Margaret Duggan handed in her notice after 6½ years as editor. She is understood to have found her position no longer tenable after she came under pressure not to include an article outlining the findings of a survey commissioned to address problems of falling membership. The survey revealed that, while membership worldwide is relatively buoyant, numbers in England fell by 140,000 to 100,000 in ten years.

It's addiction, Jim ... but not as we know it

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STAR TREK fans exhibit the same psychological and sometimes physical symptoms in their devotion as drug addicts. Some have withdrawal symptoms if they are denied their regular "fix" of the show and others need ever larger doses to satisfy their craving for Captain Kirk & Co.

However, academics from Northumbria University found that, unlike drug users, the highs experienced by Star Trek fans are almost entirely beneficial. Dr Sandy Wolfson, who has spent four years interviewing devotees of the show, found that the average Trekkie was a happy, well-adjusted person. Most benefited from the companionship of like-minded people and she found several married couples who met through their Star Trek fan club.

"My research found that about 5 to 10 per cent of fans meet the psychological criteria of addiction," Dr Wolfson said. "They show withdrawal symptoms such as agitation and frustration if they miss an episode and develop higher tolerance levels, so they need increasing doses."

One 40-year-old career woman who spoke to Dr Wolfson was unable to relax on holiday for fear she had not set her video recorder properly, while another fan spent more than £6,000 on Star Trek merchandise in a year.

Dr Wolfson, principal lecturer in psychology, whose research is published in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today, said that

such behaviour did not prove that Star Trek addiction was damaging. "Even among the small group showing signs of addiction, it can be extremely healthy from a psychological point of view. They feel the benefits of their involvement far outweigh the costs."

"Most Trekkies have made friends and even met spouses through their love of the series and they are intellectually challenged by the range of moral and ethical dilemmas presented in the show."

Unlike other shows, *Star Trek* holds back from providing its audience with all the answers, sparking thought and debate on issues such as racism and prejudice, she said. "Even in well-written soap there is almost always a black-and-white outcome, with bad guys getting their come-uppance, whereas in *Star Trek* you very often find ambiguous endings, with the characters themselves perturbed about their own actions."

Bob Benton, manager of Page's Bar, in London, a mecca for sci-fi fans, confirmed he saw the symptoms of *Star Trek* addiction in some of his customers. "There are people who get manically obsessive but they are only a minority. There are a couple who come in who we call 'the anoraks' because they are so involved in *Star Trek* that they basically cannot talk about anything else. They talk on such a level about the workings of warp drive engines that you don't really want to know."



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Health authority wants its money back after girl dies

By DANIEL McGRORY

A HEALTH AUTHORITY is to appeal against an award of £700,000 to a brain-damaged girl who died eight days after a court made the financial settlement.

The family of Hollie Calladine, 9, said the move by Nottingham Health Authority was outrageous and that they would fight to retain the money granted for the injuries their daughter suffered at birth. Dr Julie Woodin, the authority's chief executive, said the health authority would be asking the High Court to rule on that part of the award made for Hollie's long-term care.

The solicitor for the Calladine family criticised the authority for "a thinly disguised attempt to force the parents to surrender part of their compensation against the threat of many more years of legal battle". Paul Balen said the family had offered to pay back 10 per cent of the settlement but that had been rejected by the health authority.

Throughout her life Hollie was fully dependent on her

parents, Toni and Peter Calladine. She died at home from cardiac arrest soon after the court's ruling on May 27. The health authority had conceded 75 per cent legal responsibility after the court was told that it must have been obvious to staff at the Queen's Medical Centre that during labour mother and baby were in obvious distress. Hollie was left blind, tetraplegic, epileptic and with cerebral palsy. Doctors were said to have delayed her birth too long and misinterpreted blood tests.

The family say that Hollie should have been delivered by emergency Caesarean section and that had this been done she would not have suffered brain damage caused by a lack of oxygen. Mrs Calladine, 28, who has two other children, said: "They should just leave us alone. Hollie is not here to spend the money now and we've got to get on with our lives. I shouldn't have to go to court again. We've been through the courts for 8½ years, but I will fight on. I'm doing it for Hollie and my family." Mr Balen said that



Hollie died at home after award was made

any court action by the authority might result in a further claim against them by the family. Dr Woodin said the decision to seek leave to appeal was made on legal advice which stated the authority had a financial duty and a statutory and moral responsibility to "ensure that NHS funds are used to meet the needs of the greatest possible number of patients".

"While we have no wish to cause further distress to the

Calladine family at this difficult time, our responsibilities for the proper use of public funds mean we must be certain that all resources available to us are used where they can benefit patients."

The authority said that it would not contest the element of damages agreed as part of the total settlement for the pain and suffering and costs of care experienced during Hollie's lifetime. Instead, it would look at the amount allowed for her long-term care during her expected lifetime.

Dr Woodin said that the courts should decide the amount that should be reclaimed. "Funds were allocated for a purpose which no longer exists. The money concerned would be available for patient care. I feel that having taken legal advice we have no choice. We have a moral and financial duty as custodians of public funds."

Mr Balen said that had Hollie lived longer than either party's experts had during the court hearing had expected there would have been no question of her parents going back to court to ask for more money.



Toni Calladine at Nottingham Health Authority's headquarters yesterday

Doctors say they have healing licked

By NIGEL HAWKES

LICKING a wound really does make it better, and a group of doctors from St Bartholomew's Hospital in London claim to know the reason.

Dr Nigel Benjamin and colleagues suggest in *The Lancet* that licking produces nitric oxide, a powerful antibiotic which reduces the risk of infection. The instinct to lick is common to humans and animals.

The doctors believe that the salivary glands produce nitrates which are converted into nitrites on the tongue. When acidified, nitrites are turned into nitric oxide. The skin is acid, so they speculate that it creates germ-killing nitric oxide from saliva.

To test the idea, they measured nitric oxide production on the hands of 14 volunteers when they were licked, comparing the result to bathing the hands in a salt solution. They found that licking increased the amount of nitric oxide by a much greater extent than did salt solution.

Save £80m to gain £5m, Dobson tells NHS trusts

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH service managers were yesterday offered £5 million extra to spend on beds for sick children this year provided they save £80 million by making redundancies and cutting red tape.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, travelled to Cardiff to tell the annual conference of the Institute of Health Services Management about the extra £5 million, which is enough to provide 20 paediatric intensive-care beds. Before leaving London, he received a warning from one large acute hospital that any further cuts were impossible and that a feeling of despair was spreading among the dedicated staff.

Mr Dobson's speech to an audience representing leaders of the health service bureaucracy that Labour strongly

making the best use of inadequate resources."

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said that the increasing workloads in hospitals were undermining morale and leading to more nurses leaving the health service. "We have estimated that if trusts could bring down the current turnover rate for nurses to the levels they were in 1992 the average hospital could save over £500,000 a year."

The institute's survey on the outstanding repair bill for NHS hospitals was handed to Mr Dobson for his consideration. The £2.4 billion figure is widely considered by managers to be a gross underestimate with the true backlog in excess of £10 billion. The BMA says that £1 billion a year is needed in each of the next five years just to bring the service up to average levels for the rest of the developed world.

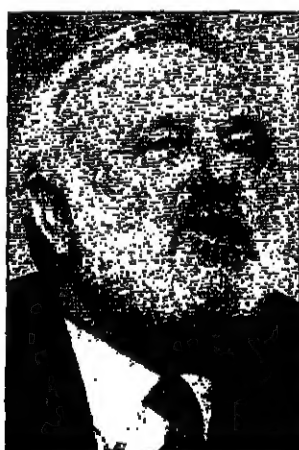
A warning to Mr Dobson from Dr Peter Richards, medical director, and Michael Gumpel, chairman, of Northwick Park Hospital and St Mark's NH Trust at Harrow is published today in the *British Medical Journal*. It says: "With the best of intentions we cannot sustain current services with even less than current resources. We cannot maintain morale without light at the end of the tunnel."

They say that their problems are similar to those facing hospitals nationwide. "The current very high bed occupancy leaves no margin for surges in demand and is putting unremitting and damaging pressure on all staff."

The letter catalogues a series of increasing pressures on their hospital's services. They say that accident and emergency attendances increased by 7 per cent last year and by about 10 per cent so far this year. "Urgent patients are not seen soon enough and at peak times less urgent patients may wait several hours."

Emergency admissions increased by 11 per cent last year and 17 per cent this year. Efforts to reduce the length of time patients need to remain in hospital is frustrated because so many of them are elderly and because of the diminishing capacity of social services to find long-stay accommodation for them. The number of beds blocked by delayed discharges in this way has increased over the year by 55 per cent.

Dr Richards and Mr Gumpel say that they have already taken all steps to maximise income and have been forced to make extensive savings. "Our colleagues instructed us to protest vigorously that we cannot maintain services while continuing to cut costs. We hope we have left you in no doubt about our concern and feeling of despair... we do not seek confrontation but we and most other hospital doctors are not prepared to destroy what we have all worked so hard to achieve."



Savings proposed by Dobson, above, will not work, says Macara



criticised throughout the election campaign made it plain that for the foreseeable future they could expect no extra money to run the service beyond what they save themselves. He told the managers: "Removing the paper chase... means taking hard decisions about management costs."

By arriving after the other main speakers, he missed Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, telling delegates that it was ludicrous to expect the service to make savings year after year.

"Efficiency is the enemy of effectiveness," Dr Macara said. "We are not going to make cost savings by reducing bureaucracy. We have good managers and we need to redeploy them. We are already

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Impoverished Lady Hamilton claimed credit for Trafalgar

By JOHN VINCENT

NELSON was long dead — and Emma, Lady Hamilton, his mistress and mother of his daughter Horatia, was destitute. In desperation, she wrote an elaborate begging letter to the Prince Regent and the Prime Minister outlining all she had done for the nation.

In the account she claims indirect credit for the British Fleet's victory at the Nile in 1798, for convincing Nelson to attack at Copenhagen three years later, and even for persuading him against his will to take command of the Fleet for Trafalgar, in 1805.

She recounts in vivid detail her services from 1791 to 1813 and affirms — "without fear of exaggeration" — that her losses in serving her country amounted to £20,000, a fortune in those days.

Now, 184 years after they were written, her working manuscripts — one with numerous crossings-out and the other a revised version — have surfaced from private ownership to appear at a Sotheby's literature sale in London on July 17, where they are expected to fetch up to £22,000.

The manuscripts, written in a secretarial hand, were probably drawn up by a lawyer. However, they bear Emma Hamilton's



Lady Hamilton wrote a begging letter to the Prince Regent

signature and are almost certainly based on her autobiographical account of her services to Britain and her relationship with Nelson.

Emma Hamilton, the daughter of a Cheshire labourer, was one of the great beauties of her age. She met Nelson in Naples, where she lived with and married Sir William Hamilton, envoy to the court in Naples. She and Nelson became lovers and in 1801 their daughter was born. On Nelson's death, and despite his wish that

she be taken care of financially, she soon became destitute, depending on the kindness of friends to stave off her creditors. By 1813, when she wrote the "memorials", she and her 12-year-old daughter had already been confined for debt to "within the rules of the King's Bench" and Lady Hamilton was physically ill and depressed.

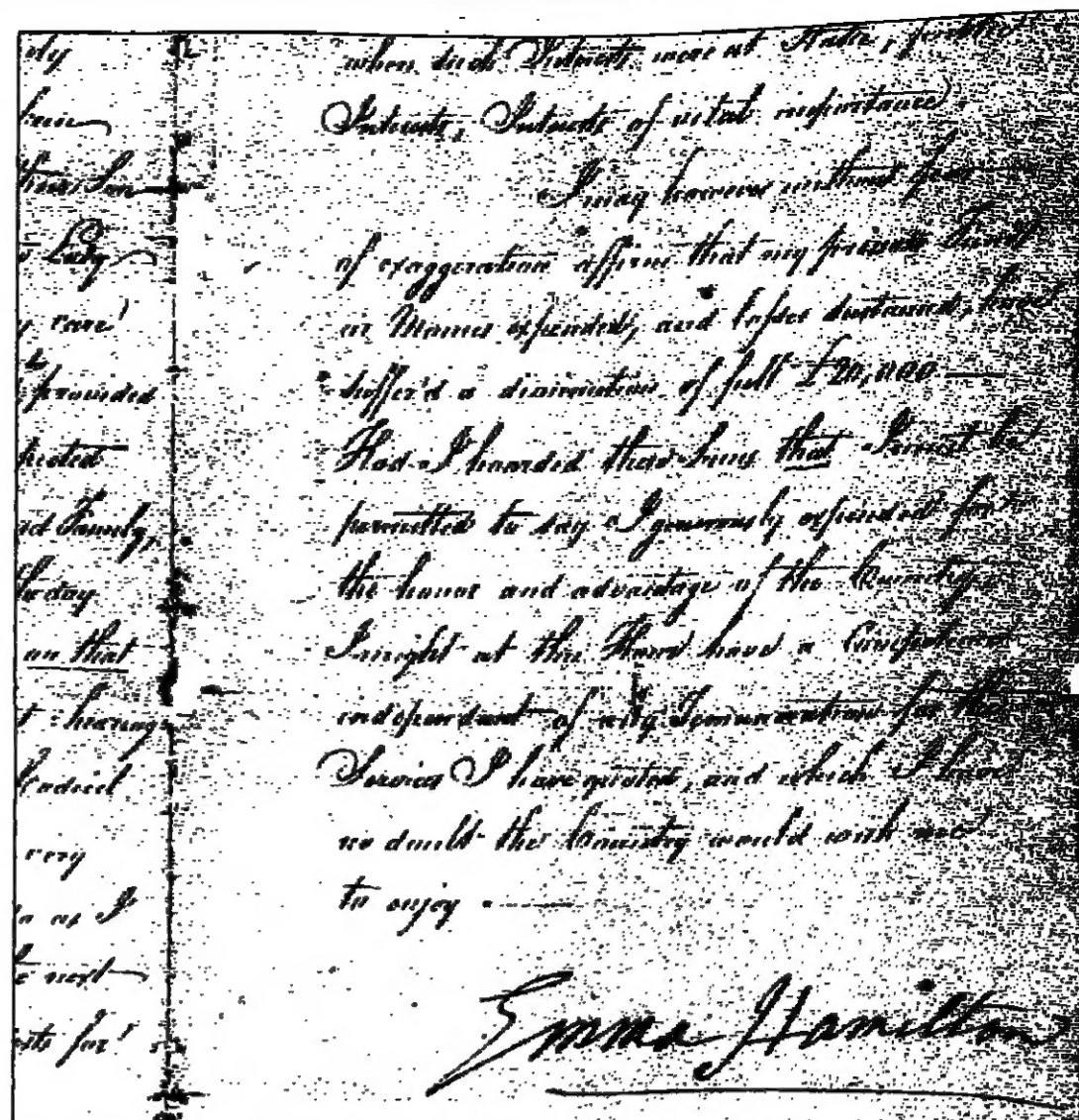
She claims to have supplied Nelson's fleet with provisions and made it possible for him to follow the French and secure victory at the

Nile. According to the account: "I went to the Queen, who received me in her Bed ... I told her the Sicilies [sic] must be lost, if Nelson was not supplied ... nothing could exceed the alarm, with which this Communication inspir'd her ... I dictated and she wrote a positive Order ... to receive with hospitality the British Fleet to Water, Victual etc."

"The Admiral's reply in my hands says that he received the precious Order and that if he gain'd a Battle it should be called mine and the Queen's for to you I will owe my Success."

She says she acted as Nelson's secretary and interpreter, writing for him "from Morning until Night translating whole Papers and Documents in various languages". She entreated Nelson to participate in the attack on Copenhagen and to take command of the Fleet in 1805, "which terminated in his last glorious but fatal Victory at Trafalgar. I have proof that he would never have been at the one or the other but at my instance [sic]."

Dr Peter Beal, of Sotheby's, said: "Even despite her perceptible inaccuracies and exaggerations, these manuscripts represent an extraordinary first-hand witness to a relationship which constitutes one of the great love stories in history."



In the letters, Lady Hamilton says her services to the country left her £20,000 out of pocket

Route of plutonium flights to be reviewed

THE Government is to review the flight paths of aircraft flying radioactive nuclear waste across the country. The Transport Minister, Gavin Strang, announced the move yesterday after a 30-minute meeting with the Labour MP Denis MacShane.

Mr MacShane is calling for a ban on the flights to Sellafield, Cumbria, amid growing fears that an aircraft crash could threaten millions of lives and contaminate huge tracts of the country for generations. Mr MacShane, whose Rotherham constituency lies under the path of the flights, said after the meeting that he was "very pleased" with Dr Strang's response.

"He understands the seriousness of public concern and has promised to review the flight paths so that they will not go over densely populated areas, and to look at the security of the plutonium containers so they meet the highest international standards," Mr MacShane said.

Concern centres on a proposal by British Nuclear Fuels to fly plutonium waste from Europe and Japan to its new recycling plant at Sellafield. The plant would enrich the plutonium and then return it. Environmentalists, including Friends of the Earth, are calling for an immediate halt to the trade.

Brothers' male nanny faces jail for abuse

TWO boys were sexually abused by a male nanny, recruited from an agency, as they were read bedtime stories.

The nanny, Garry Cameron, 30, was told yesterday that he faced jail after being convicted of indecently assaulting the boys, aged 9 and 11. Lincoln Crown Court heard that the offences happened within weeks of him being recruited from Yorkshire Nannies to live with the boys and their father.

The mother, who had split up from the father, said in a statement: "The agency mentioned that Garry was keen on football. He seemed like the ideal person. The agency assured me they would check his references."

Cameron, from Peterborough, denied that he had behaved improperly with the boys. The jury took 30 minutes to convict him of all five charges.

Adjourning sentence for reports, Judge Richard Jenkins granted Cameron bail but said: "Be under no illusions. I have prison in mind."

Christine Brain, of Yorkshire Nannies in Doncaster, said afterwards: "We have been in business for 26 years and have never had anything like this. His references were checked by a senior consultant."

They work better together.



Strawberries by the lorryload

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE English strawberry season has now got into full stride. Sainsbury's has introduced cups of ready-cut strawberries sold with an accompanying pot of Jersey cream, and a bowl of whole strawberries containing a Belgian chocolate dipping sauce. Meanwhile, Tesco calculates that the strawberries it alone sells this summer would fill 250 container lorries.

Prices start from about 55p for a 1/2 lb punnet. This week's advertised promotions include:

Asda: rump steak £6.99 kg, turkey stir-fry £1.49 for 320g, mushrooms 49p for 250g, new potatoes 49p for 2.5 kg, plums 49p kg.

Budgens: fresh barbecue sausage selection £1.29 for 507g, large eggs 59p for six, burger buns 59p for six, mixed sweet peppers £1.39 for three, Braeburn apples 49p lb.

Coop (CVS): rump steak £7.99 kg, whole chicken £4.49 for 2.2 kg, trimmed mangelout 79p for 135g, Jersey courgettes 49p lb, cherry tomatoes 79p for 250g, Australian mature cheddar £4.99 kg.

Harrods: panzeroni with cheese and ham £1.99 for 100g, avocado with prawns £4.99 each, ciabatta with bresada, fresh parmesan and roquette £2.99 each.

Mark & Spencer: four roast chicken breasts £3.99 for 454g, honey and mustard gammon steak £2.29 for 1.2 kg, six salmon fillets £7.99 for 680g, Jersey Royals 99p kg, tarte au citron £2.49 for 800g, extra thick double cream 54p 100g, Cudiniot champagne £9.99.

Morrisons: thick pork sausages £1.05 for 100g, roast turkey 79p for 100g, roast pork 79p for 113g, silver-side £1.69 lb, sirloin steak £4.99 lb, brisket £1.39 lb, broccoli crowns 59p lb, watermelons 99p each, plums 59p.

Safeway: topside/silver-side/top rump £5.29 kg, Melton Mowbray medium pork pies 79p each, water-thin honey roast turkey £1.69 for 400g, strawberries £1.29 for 454g, peaches £1.49 punnet, large mangoes £1.29 for two.

Sainsbury's: whole chicken £2.75 for 1.5 kg, chicken fillets £4.25 for four, rump steak £6.49 kg, salmon fillet £3.95 for 480g, asparagus tips £1.69 for 100g, UK tomatoes 69p for six, red peppers £1.09 lb.

Somerfield: turkey breast steaks £2.39 for four (450g), smoked haddock fillet £3.72 kg, hot and spicy ribs and wings £1.99 for 100g, Jersey Royals 19p lb, sweetcorn £1.09 for two, flat mushrooms 99p for 250g, Granny Smith apples 34p lb, oranges 99p for 1.5 kg.

Tesco: Scottish topside £5.99 kg, pork loin steaks £5.49 kg, boneless leg of pork £2.99 kg, haddock fillet £1.95 lb, seafood cocktail 59p 1/2 lb, Scottish whelks £1.99 lb, broccoli 69p lb, aubergines 59p each, satsumas 74p lb, Jersey Royals 19p lb, Packham pears 99p kg.

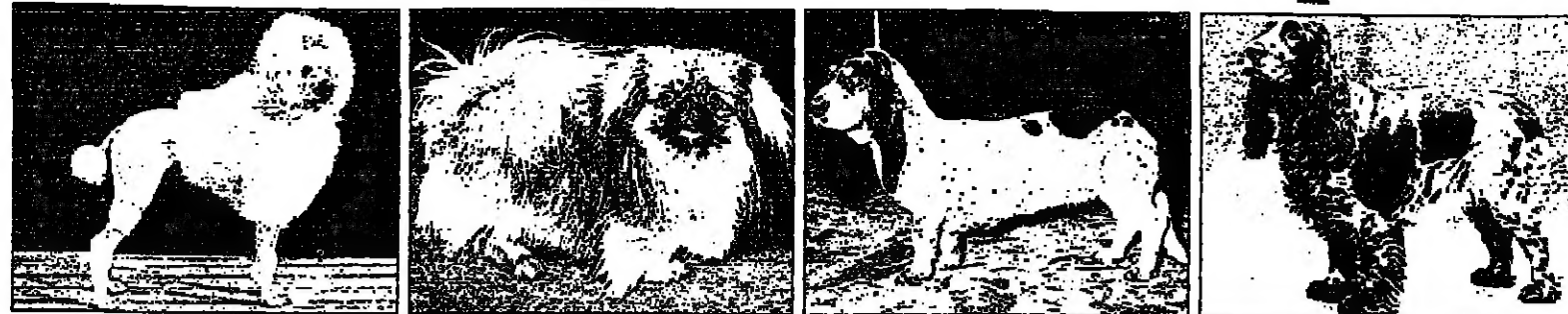
Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus beefburgers 79p for 170g, frozen steak and kidney pies £1.45 for four (568g), mangelout peas £1.09 for 250g, butternut squash 59p lb, dwarf courgettes 99p for 200g, aubergines 69p lb, mushrooms 99p for 450g, Braeburn apples 49p lb, Triumph pears 34p lb, Cornish ice cream £1.99 for 200g.

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ROBIN YOUNG

June 13 1997

Genetics exposes the wild past of man's best friend



In the family: the poodle, Pekingese, basset hound and cocker spaniel are all descended from the wolf, according to biologist Robert Wayne

Dogs may have been domesticated ten times longer than thought, Nigel Hawkes reports

THE dog may have been man's best friend for more than 100,000 years, ten times longer than archaeologists believe. A genetic study has confirmed that all dogs are descended from the wolf, with no contribution from jackals or coyotes. The evidence also suggests that domestication occurred in only two places.

Moreover, the study indicates that domestication took place 135,000 years ago — whereas the earliest dog remains found by archaeologists are only 14,000 years old. If so, modern man had tamed the dog by the time he began to leave Africa about 100,000 years ago.

A team led by the biologist Robert Wayne, of the University of California in Los Angeles, examined samples from 162 wolves from around the world, as well as 140 dogs belonging

to 67 different breeds. From the animals, they worked out the sequence of the mitochondrial DNA — a form of DNA which is passed down unchanged through the female line.

In *Science*, they report that the sequences from dogs are much closer to those of wolves than they are to coyotes or jackals, which means that wolves alone are the source of all today's dogs.

They were also able to classify the dog DNA sequences into four distinct groups. For two of these groups, it was possible to trace the ancestry back to two common ancestor wolves. Three-quarters of all the dogs examined — including many common breeds — originated from one ancestor, indicating that most of today's dog breeds have a single "mother wolf" back in the distant past. But other dogs

originated from a separate wolf ancestor, indicating that wolves were domesticated independently in two places. In the fourth group, dogs show more recent vulpine ancestry, because in these cases wolves mated with dogs after domestication, introducing more wolf genes.

Identifying exactly where domestication occurred proved impossible, since none of the wolves living today had DNA patterns matching those of the dogs. A larger sample of wolves might provide clues, but it is equally possible that the mother wolf belonged to a population now extinct.

The most controversial part of the analysis is the dating of domestication, which comes from analysing the mitochondrial DNA. While it does not change from generation to generation, this form of DNA does slowly

mutate, at a rate that can be estimated. This means that the diversity of DNA found today is an index of how long it is since today's dogs had a common ancestor.

The report has been greeted with some scepticism. "There are no animal bones suggesting domesticated dogs — or domesticated anything — remotely approaching that time," the anthropologist Dr Richard Klein of Stanford University said.

But Dr Wayne argues that dogs do not appear in the archaeological record until 14,000 years ago because until that time they looked like wolves. Not until man settled in communities did the dog begin to change, getting smaller and developing a shorter muzzle. If so, many remains classified as those of wolves could have been family pets.



Cure for snorers does not lie with sleeping dogs



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE bulldog's laboured breathing and noisy snoring is not only of interest to vets. Professor Sigrud Veasy of the University of Pennsylvania reported this week to a San Francisco conference on sleep about her investigations into the role of serotonin, a neurotransmitter, in the underlying causes of the dog's noisy breathing.

When awake, the dog's serotonin levels are high: it may snuffle and snort but does not, of course, snore. Once asleep the serotonin levels fall, the muscles around the airways relax and the dog snores. Dr Veasy hopes to extend the success she has had treating dogs with drugs to boost serotonin levels, thereby quieting their breathing, to help humans.

Tom McKay is a consultant chest physician at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, which is treating 1,000 patients who have sleep apnoea, a potentially dangerous form of snoring. With the crescendo variety, snoring becomes louder and louder until there is a sudden pause in breathing: the cycle is then repeated. This leaves the patient tired and a poor performer, and at risk of accidents.

In the long term, sleep apnoea is associated with raised blood pressure and increased incidence of heart attacks and strokes. Very occasionally, breathing does not restart and may account for a small number of unexplained sudden deaths during sleep.

Dr McKay has reservations about the possibility that lessons may be learnt from

animal trials. He said: "The problems of noisy snoring and sleep apnoea are very complicated. It is possible that neurotransmitters do play a part but the underlying cause of the slackened muscles is not fully understood and may not be the same in every case."

Serotonin affects different parts of the brain, including the cortex. Some of the effect it may have on snoring in bulldogs may be because it alters the sleep pattern. In people that could worsen the difficulties caused by daytime sleepiness which results in much of the disability experienced by patients with sleep apnoea.

Dr McKay gave warning about surgery on the airways of heavy snorers. That may silence about 50 per cent of snorers and provide a more peaceful night for spouses but it does not take away the risk. The patient may no longer snore loudly but the hazardous pattern of nocturnal breathing usually remains — silent sleep apnoea is as dangerous as noisy apnoea.

Dr McKay says patients who are heavy snorers and have sleep apnoea should drink less, lose weight, stop smoking and see a chest physician with a special interest in sleep. A physician can investigate the cause of the trouble and if the patient's health is in danger arrange for them to have a continuous positive pressure airway machine. The machine corrects the apnoea, removes the snoring and partners find the low hum from the machine an acceptable price to pay for the end of snoring.

Parasites bugged Ancient Egyptians

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE Ancient Egyptians may have been spared the scourges of cancer, tuberculosis, syphilis and even tooth decay, but they were martyrs to parasites, a study of mummies has shown. Worms, flukes and the protozoa responsible for malaria were common problems for them, just as they are for their modern descendants, says Dr Rosalie David, of Manchester University museum, in *The Lancet*.

Yet there is little evidence of infectious or sexually transmitted diseases such as TB or syphilis, she says. Teeth are worn because the bread contained sand and other impurities, but decay was rare.

Dr David directs the Egyptian mummy research programme at the museum, which uses modern medical techniques, from X-rays to endoscopy, to investigate the mummies. Among the parasites found were *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes malaria, the worm *Echinococcus granulosus*, which causes liver and lung infections, and

Trichinella, which causes intestinal infections.

At least two mummies have been found to have calcium deposits in their bladders, suggesting they had been infected with the parasitic worm *Schistosoma haematobium*. The water-borne organism, which can cause fever and kidney failure, today infects 300 million people worldwide, including 20 per cent of the population of Egypt.

Researchers are now examining rehydrated mummy tissue to identify which *Schistosoma* species have caused infections over the past several thousand years. Dr David said: "Egypt provides an unparalleled opportunity to study the history of disease, because there is an abundance of skeletal and mummified human material. Also, since the modern population of Egypt has not substantially altered since antiquity, it is possible through study of the epidemiology of certain diseases over 5,000 years to understand disease evolution."



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THE TIMES FRIDAY

**Tory
face
backb**

**REPORTS BY RUSSELL JENKINS**

Pat Kearney, an Irish Republican and chairman of the council's city centre committee, said: "We will be putting on a bright face, but thousands might have died. Today we could still have been a city in mourning. That is why we will never forgive the IRA."



The doctors tell us he was just too young for it to have had an effect." Mr Hughes, a fashion wholesaler from Worsley, Greater Manchester, made a point of returning to the city centre the day after the bomb to pick up his car and Sam's pram. "I thought it was important not to have hang ups about coming into Manchester," he said.

*The above rate includes quarterly interest payments of 1% upon the annuity and an annual interest reward of 0.25% gross per annum. Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from the annual paid funds which may be required (if needed) non-liquidated. Otherwise (for example, where the required redemption level is met) interest will be paid gross. The gross rate is the rate before deducting income tax. Cash interest and quarterly interest interest is paid quarterly and annual interest interest is paid annually. All rates are subject to a maximum. We may monitor and amend our phone call with a number to maintain and update our service. National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office: 41 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4A 3DF. Subject to a maximum: 929222 London. And see 17185

WIMAMMED **SARWAR**, Labour MP for Birmingham, said a rival Labour Party should be expected to emerge from the party's internal dispute following an internal inquiry published on Monday.

Mr Sarwar said the Labour Party will not be divided and next week, but it is possible the party will split in that case.

He said the party would be split at a juncture representing the British executive.

Mr Sarwar, however, said the first Labour MP when the party was elected for Glasgow in May 1974. Then the party had gone to the polls and he had gone to the polls as the Independent Labour Party candidate. Mr Sarwar said the party had to survive in the campaign and avoid the Labour vote. Mr Sarwar had admitted giving money to Mr Islam but said that it was a loan.

Labour organisational

committee had the right power to form 34 constituencies, turn an equality of only one take and representry, how that the second would be the party.

Yes, the inquiry was a plea to possible action in an Mr Sarwar alleged to be a

had not

Marines' striptease brings Cyprus training ban

Drunken antics have shamed the British garrison in Cyprus and added to its public-relations problems, reports Michael Theodoulou from Ayia Napa

LOOKING dishevelled and still clearly hung over as they stood squeezed into the tiny dock at Larnaca court, the three disgraced Royal Marines described it as a harmless joke.

Just hours earlier, while carousing on the last night of an adventure training exercise in Cyprus, they had stripped naked in a packed public house and treated gaping onlookers to a drunken rendition of *God Save the Queen*.

The Cypriot judge told the trio their behaviour had been "offensive to the morals of their host country" and fined each £180.

Harmless their antics were certainly not, agreed the Royal Marine's furious Commandant General, Major-General David Pennefather, who banned the entire 6,000-strong corps from training in Cyprus for an indefinite period. He cited the need to respect local sensitivities and avoid any further incidents.

The ban, due to be reviewed

at the end of the year, might strike the casual observer as an over-reaction to what the British bases spokesman in Cyprus originally played down as a "regrettable case of off-duty high jinks".

A wide range of regular and Territorial Army units visit Cyprus virtually back-to-back on training exercises to test what one officer described as "leadership and team skills in a challenging, rugged environment with a hot climate". Royal Marine units, who do jungle training in Brunei and winter exercises in Norway, visit Cyprus twice a year.

The trouble was, last month's incident took place in the same pulsating, neon-lit resort of Ayia Napa where three Royal Green Jackets had been drinking heavily the night they sexually assaulted and battered to death the Danish tour guide, Louise Jensen, in September 1994. The killing in one of Britain's last foreign outposts cast a withering spotlight on the



Off-duty British soldiers relax after training in Cyprus. Life can be boring for most in their sunshine posting

behaviour of Britain's 3,700 troops and airmen stationed on the former colony. And it provoked fury among Greek Cypriots who had long accused the army's top brass of turning a blind eye to the

drunken bawling of off-duty Defenders of the Realm. Ayia Napa's central square was even named "The Battlefield" in their dishonour. The Royal Marine ban was generally welcomed by Ayia Napa locals

last night. "It seems a bit harsh, but we appreciate the army's gesture. In the past, senior officers would have said 'they're soldiers, what do you expect?'" said Elias Asprou, president of the Res-

taurateurs' Association. Ironically, the publicity generated by this latest incident belies the improved disciplinary record of off-duty servicemen in Cyprus after an offensive on drunken and loutish behav-

iour declared by forces commanders after the Jensen killing.

Her death effectively means that British troops in Cyprus have to behave better than they do anywhere else in the world. This puts a huge strain on commanders well aware that many of the rank and file are bored with their sunshine posting and miss the adrenaline rush of dodging bullets in places such as Northern Ireland and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The shadow of that dreadful Jensen case will continue to fall on British forces in Cyprus, and we stress most clearly the need from our soldiers that we require the most impeccable and exemplary standards of behaviour here," Mervyn Wynne Jones, the British bases spokesman, said. After Jensen's death, army commanders had declared Ayia Napa out of

against British soldiers in general.

Central to the campaign to teach soldiers that being macho does not mean out-fighting and out-drinking everyone are code of conduct cards, urging control and responsibility. The cards, which were introduced last year, say: 1. Steer clear of trouble. 2. Look after your friends. 3. Think of others. They also include the telephone numbers of military police and taxi companies so drinkers can take a cab back to base.

The theory is that a friend, like a referee, will flash the card at a colleague about to commit a foul. It has been easy to poke fun at the idea. A wag on one local paper suggested the cards should warn: 1. That's a tourist, not a terrorist. 2. One usually does that in the lavatory. and 3. Not everyone wants to see your bum.

Squaddies spend a lot of money, but we expect them to behave

Yet the campaign is working. Off-duty British soldiers are now on the receiving end of most of the violence, or subjected to scams by local taxi drivers and pub owners. Last week-end several off-duty soldiers from the recent-

ly arrived 1st Battalion, the Light Infantry, were hospitalised after they were set upon by gangs of Greek Cypriot thugs in two separate incidents.

Figures for September 1996 to April 1997 show that off-duty soldiers were "wronged against" that is assaulted, abused or threatened — 39 times while British troops were responsible for "just five instances" of minor discipline.

Two years ago, while the Jensen trial was dragging on, a ten-strong group of Cypriots attacked four visiting Royal Marine NCOs with baseball bats. One lost five teeth and was put in hospital for weeks with a smashed jawbone. Only one Cypriot was convicted and fined. Army commanders were outraged by the "light sentence for a serious, deliberate, brutal assault" — but were reluctant to make a fuss while three of their own were on trial for one of the most horrific cases the island has witnessed.

"They spend a lot of money, but we expect them to behave like civilised human beings," Mr Asprou said. Even Michaelis Vassiliades, Ms Jensen's Cypriot boyfriend, who was with her the night she was abducted and killed, agreed not all British soldiers were bad. Time has extinguished his fierce anger against the British military: "I've nothing

Sinead O'Connor faces death threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EXTRAORDINARY security precautions will be in place next week to protect Sinead O'Connor, the Irish singer, when she performs at a peace concert in Jerusalem. A death threat against her is being taken seriously.

The British Embassy said that the threat was received just over a week ago by its security officer. "The caller did not give an identity or a motive. He just said that if she came here, she would be killed. We passed the contents of the call to the Irish Embassy."

Israeli and Western intelligence sources believe that the threat was made on behalf of far-right Jews who are implacably opposed to the purpose of the open-air concert, which is the climax of a week of activities by Israeli leftwingers and Palestinians campaigning for sovereignty over annexed east Jerusalem to be handed back to the Arabs.

Among events to which the concert is linked is a tour designed to expose what the Arabs allege is "the Judaisation of Jerusalem" and a joint Israeli-Palestinian art exhibition entitled "Down with the occupation".

The concert will be preceded by a joint Israeli-Palestinian

march from the Damascus Gate in east Jerusalem to the concert site in Israeli west Jerusalem to demand the establishment of a Palestinian state, with east Jerusalem as its capital. The demonstrators will be marching under the banner "Sharing Jerusalem — two capitals for two states". An Israeli organiser said: "We realise that there might be trouble."

Brendan Scannell, the Irish Ambassador, said that he had sent the contents of the threat to Ms O'Connor's agent and to the Israeli police. The concert, tomorrow week, is due to be held in Sultan's Pool, just below the walls of the Old City, which Israel took from Jordan in 1967.

Tension in the area is running high. After prayers at the Wailing Wall on Wednesday to mark Shavuot, a Jewish holiday, hundreds of Jewish youths attacked Palestinian property and smashed wind-screens of 18 Arab-owned cars. Police said the destruction sprang from "hatred of Arabs".

Khan Younis, Gaza Strip: Israeli soldiers and a Jewish settler wounded four Palestinians yesterday in two separate clashes in the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said. (Reuters)

WAS THERE A SECOND KILLER?



ADAM HALL, grandson and attorney to racist bomber Sam Cayhall, again appealed for a stay of execution. In a powerful courtroom statement, he argued the case that the ten days remaining were insufficient for him to discover the identity of an alleged accomplice and details of a cover-up.

THE CHAMBER 12

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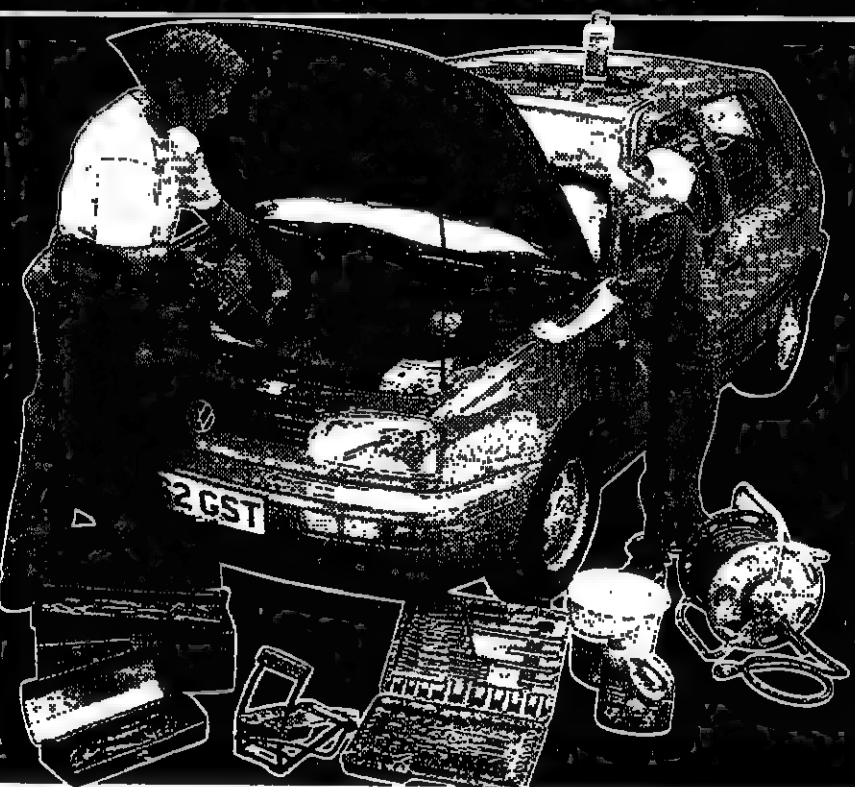
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Wildlife guardians lament lack of will to halt illegal trade

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

A HORRIFYING catalogue of smuggled rare species, including pythons concealed in trousers and ten tonnes of whale meat disguised as mackerel, has been revealed to delegates at the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The 70-page document issued yesterday lists attempts to traffic in hundreds of species from gila monsters to queen conches, nearly all uncovered in the three years since the last Cites conference in Fort Lauderdale in 1974.

It makes the point that wealthy industrialised countries "are to be blamed as much as developing countries" for ignoring Cites regulations. "A poor economy may be a plausible excuse for inadequate Cites controls in a developing country, but inadequate controls in the developed world are more likely to be the result of a lack of political will."

The most bizarre case of concealment on travellers' bodies were 11 barred pythons seized from a Papua New Guinea national and an American about to board a flight to Australia. The snakes were hidden under their clothes.

The post is increasingly

being used to send specimens. Express mail has been discovered as a cheap and risk-free method to ship live reptiles, insects and plants, as well as ivory and oriental medicines.

In January last year, United States authorities found specimens of black-headed pythons in Federal Express and Australian Post parcels sent from Australia to the US. They later uncovered a racket run by four collectors who had shipped hundreds of reptiles to America over several years.

In October 1994, 139lb of ivory pieces from Zaire was picked up in parcels posted from there to Belgium.

The Cites secretariat says it is concerned about cases of illegal movement of live animals, particularly of primates. It details the seizure of a chimpanzee, as well as four parrots, in Cameroon from a passenger flying from Congo Brazzaville to Moscow.

Authorities learnt later that another four chimpanzees were offloaded in Cameroon before customs officers could act. When the aircraft landed in Russia, two vervet monkeys and another primate were seized from a Congolese diplomat. On the same flight a few days later, three chimpanzees and a gorilla were confiscated from passengers waiting to board at Brazzaville.

Two Pakistanis on a flight from Pakistan were waiting to collect their checked-in baggage in the Philippines when customs officials checked and found a gorilla, two drills, two parrots, monkeys, four vervet monkeys and an unidentified baboon.

The report says there has been a significant increase recently in meat from primates and reptiles shipped to Europe for sale in African restaurants.

It urges governments to "remind their diplomatic missions" and troops serving with United Nations peacekeeping forces that they have no diplomatic immunity against Cites infringements.

A charity in Djibouti told Cites in May 1994 that French tourists and soldiers based there were buying leopard skins, daggers with rhino horn handles, and artefacts from "many other" protected species. A regiment of French soldiers kept several cheetahs as mascots that travelled regularly to and from France in violation of Cites regulations.

Animal parts still form a major part of the illegal trade. In April last year, Japanese officials intercepted ten tonnes

of whalemeat disguised as mackerel. Two years earlier, 1,291lb of Hawksbill turtle shell, declared as "horn and ox hoof", was seized in Japan.

The medicinal powers of tiger bones are still a major draw, indicated by the consignment of 440lb from Singapore, mixed with other animals' bones, that was confiscated by customs officers in South Korea.

Many governments still do not bother to inform Cites of



Turtles arriving at Ostional beach in Costa Rica for the annual egg-laying. Rules for protecting wildlife are being flouted internationally

cases of violations. They continue to issue and accept invalid documents. Some issue export permits for far more specimens than are laid down by national quotas. Last year, Cameroon issued export permits for 23,000 grey parrots, against a quota of 12,000.

The report says: "The illegal trade in ivory continues at a very high level and shows signs of increasing further." It says Cites is concerned that "only a small part of this

shipment was seized of more than 220lb of pieces, painted to look like wood. French customs in February 1995 found six tusks, three of them carved, concealed in shipments of melons from Chad.

The report speaks of the growing sophistication of illegal wildlife traders, who carry specimens on their persons, pack them in hand luggage and checked luggage, and use false compartments. There is also an increasing use of

drugs administered to live specimens to subdue them during travel.

□ "Greens" accused: Zimbabwe's state media accused some Western environmental pressure groups of threatening to block aid to African states supporting its proposal to resume trade in ivory. But the accused denied the charge, saying Zimbabwe was "making it all up" after encountering strong Cites opposition to its proposal. (Reuters)

Britain rejects early Hong Kong entry of more Beijing troops

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN has rejected a demand from Beijing for more Chinese garrison troops to enter Hong Kong before the colony's handover at midnight on June 30.

A sudden announcement by a senior Chinese official of the intention to move the soldiers in early appeared in *Ta Kung Pao*, Hong Kong's main Beijing-controlled newspaper.

Zhang Junsheng, the deputy director of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy here, said: "The People's Liberation Army (PLA) should be in Hong Kong barracks before the zero hour on July 1 so that, after the completion of the handover ceremony, they can take up defence responsibilities."

Though Mr Zhang said that Britain and China "were discussing the issue", the Foreign Office said: "There is no question of Britain agreeing to the deployment of the main PLA garrison before July 1." It insisted that "Britain bears sole responsibility for Hong Kong until midnight on June 30". A Foreign Office spokesman said the two sides were holding talks, but declined to say whether more troops might enter the city before the handover. The possibility sur-

prised officials, who insisted it has been assumed that the present advance party of 196 soldiers were all that would arrive before the handover. They observed that there had never been discussion with the Chinese about further deployments before July 1.

The officials note that Chinese diplomats have not specified how strong the garrison would ultimately be - 10,000 is a common guess: when it would arrive; and what sort of weapons it would deploy. Two days ago, a senior security official, in a briefing to the Legislative Council, said none of these details were known.

Beijing's justification for the early entry of its forces is that the last British troops would not leave for several hours after the handover. "But the British refuse to let the PLA move into their barracks early," said Wen Wei Po, another Beijing-funded paper. "This is unfair."

□ Political setback: Hong Kong's Democratic Party suffered a defeat when a High Court judge denied it permission to contest the legality of the China-appointed Provisional Legislature.

Robin Cook, page 20

Pakistan warns India of threat to new talks

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

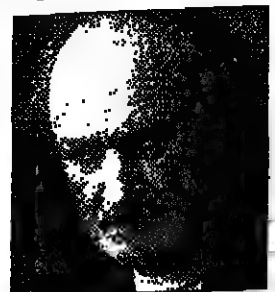
PAKISTAN accused India of escalating tension and issued a warning that military activities might jeopardise holding of the next round of talks between the two rivals.

Gauba Ayub Khan, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Delhi's decision to deploy medium-range missiles near Paki-

stan's border and repeated violations of its airspace by the Indian Air Force were causing concern. He also referred to a recent military clash on the "line of control" in Kashmir that left one Pakistani army major dead.

In response to the allegations, the Indian Foreign Ministry denied any provocation. Mr Khan refused to confirm whether the talks would proceed next week.

LEGACY OF TERROR CONTINUES



EVIL BOMBER Sam Cayhall destroyed two families that fateful day 30 years ago; his victims' and his own. His son committed suicide 15 years ago, his daughter has not spoken to him since his imprisonment and now his grandson and defence attorney, Adam Hall, is fighting a career-wrecking, no win appeal to stop Cayhall's impending execution.

THE CHAMBER 12

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Mice given green light to assist scientists

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

JAPANESE scientists have produced mice that glow green under artificial light. By taking a gene from a fluorescent jellyfish found in the Pacific and incorporating it into the embryo of a mouse, the team from Osaka University's Microbiology Disease Research Institute says that it has produced the world's first glowing mammals.

Five of the mice were born earlier this week, and will be used for research in which cells, such as tumorous ones, can be "tagged" with the fluorescence gene and easily traced. A British team at Cambridge has already proved this can be done with human cells in culture.

The Osaka team say their baby mice emit green light from their entire bodies, but that it fades as they grow hair. Adult mice continue to glow around their feet and mouths, where relatively little hair grows.



Baby mice at Osaka University which have had a jellyfish gene incorporated

Child suicide commandos call tune in Freetown

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN FREETOWN

THE headquarters of the Sierra Leone coup leader, Major Johnny Paul Koromah, and his henchmen must rank as one of the most confused military bases in Africa.

The officers who sit on the rebel Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) are big on rhetoric but appear to know little, if anything, of the coup agenda or the state of political negotiations. Under their rule, Freetown has slipped into paralysis. Few shops are open and looting and anti-looting squads chase each other like the Keystone Cops, dealing out summary executions and beatings.

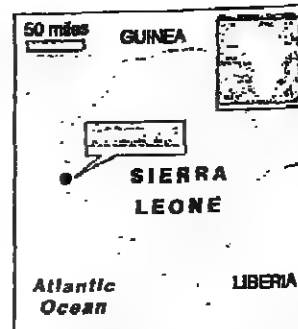
Sierra Leone is not without an agenda, but what passes for it is not dictated by the AFRC. It is the hard-eyed fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) who wield disproportionate influence in talks on the future.

Invited out of the bush after six years of war by their former regular army foes in the AFRC, the RUF has flocked in their thousands. There are more than 5,000 outside Freetown, a numerical

balance that favours them against the AFRC soldiers. Formed in the late 1980s by a disaffected corporal, today Sankoh, many of their commanders were trained in Libya until civil war broke out in Sierra Leone in 1991.

Recruiting among political and economic exiles in the Sierra Leone communities at home, in Liberia and Ivory Coast, the RUF touts a revolutionary brand incorporating Marxism, Christianity, Islam and superstition wrapped in the dogma of guerrilla warfare. Their hierarchical codes appear strict and their organisation and ideology are better honed than the army's.

"I was unhappy when the RUF first captured me," Abraham, a 17-year-old fighter, said. "I was at school and when they took me away I missed my family. The training was very hard. But then the ideological teachers explained the nature of the people's struggle and I grew strong." He has not seen his family since the RUF seized him five years ago, but he had killed "plenty people".



A self-styled "Prince Johnson", a rebel captain, led me to the RUF camp at the edge of Freetown. Their base is so different to that of the AFRC, and there is something quite chilling in the eyes of the unsmiling fighters from their Small Boys Unit (SBU) guarding its entrance. The SBU is the RUF's child suicide commando squad.

Inside the RUF headquarters, a commander called "Survivor" explained: "The state of affairs is as follows: we have our own revolutionary council independent of the AFRC." At 27, he is an old soldier in the RUF. Recruited in Ivory Coast by Mr Sankoh in 1989, Survivor is now third in line in the RUF command

structure after Mr Sankoh and the "Mosquito", Sam Bokari. "At present we have a delegation that is in Lagos headed by Mosquito. It left three days ago to negotiate the release of our leader, today Sankoh. This is our primary demand and nothing will develop here until Sankoh returns to us."

Mr Sankoh was imprisoned in Nigeria in March this year after being found carrying weapons during a diplomatic visit. He was held under house arrest until the coup in Sierra Leone, when he was moved to a secret location.

"At present we have no problem with the AFRC. They are our brothers and we want peace with them. As for the Nigerians, we will see what they do. They are the main obstacle to peace here. Sierra Leone is a small country tired of war and we want peace, but the Nigerian troops must go and President Kabbah [the elected leader ousted in the coup] should never dare return. The Freetown people are pleased to see us. For we are the people's army and we shall protect them against all our foes," declared Survivor.

New Zealanders rue poll change

FROM PATRICK SMELLIE IN WELLINGTON

AFTER six months of the first coalition Government elected under proportional representation, most New Zealanders now say they wish they had never opted to change from the first-past-the-post system.

Instead of the consensus politics envisaged under an electoral system modelled on Germany's, the new order has produced a government plagued by petty scandals and what observers believe is the most disorderly Parliament for decades.

Recent polls show that more than half of voters would like to return to the old system; only a third support proportional representation, which was endorsed in 1993 and was first used in last October's general election.

An opinion poll last month also found that three quarters of those asked disapproved of the coalition's performance. Most said the junior partner, the New Zealand First Party, was the problem.

A year ago, support for Winston Peters, New Zealand First's leader, and his populist, migrant-bashing party, was touching 30 per cent. In the most recent polls, support for Mr Peters and the party he created four years ago was below 5 per cent.

Mr Peters, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, last

month became the first New Zealand MP to be found guilty of assaulting a fellow government MP. When the parliamentary privileges committee suggested that he apologise, he refused.

The party's standing has also been hit by allegations surrounding one of its MPs, Tuku Morgan, who is described by a columnist as a "one-man political crisis". The allegations concern Mr Morgan's activities as a director and employee of a cash-strapped, publicly funded Maori television station.

A Serious Fraud Office investigation into the television station is due to begin next week.

With a budget due to be presented on June 26, business and consumer confidence has plummeted. Economic growth of around 2 per cent is predicted for the year to March 1998, which is much the same as last year but well below the 3.4 per cent forecast last December.

The chief beneficiary of the new era has been the Labour Party. All but written off a year ago, poll support for Labour is more than 40 per cent, compared with the 28 per cent it received on election night. Its main challenger on the Left, the Alliance Party, is sinking almost as badly as New Zealand First.

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Mozart, whose musical fingerprints are said to be discernible on two obscure Viennese operas whose authorship is uncertain

Professor detects Mozart's hand in little-known operas

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

TWO obscure Viennese operas from the late 18th century, regarded as the work of little-known composers, were in fact substantially ghost-written by Mozart, an American music historian has claimed.

According to David Buch, a professor of music history at the University of Northern Iowa, the findings raise the possibility of a multitude of undiscovered music by Mozart camouflaged as the work of other composers of his time.

Professor Buch, whose findings were published yesterday in *The New York Times*, has identified two operas as having Mozart's musical fingerprints. They are *The Philosopher's Stone* (*Der Stein der Weisen*) and *The Beneficent Dervish* (*Der Wohltätige Dervisch*), both composed in 1790. While the authorship of the first opera has always been unclear, it has variously been attributed to J.B. Henneberg, Benedikt Schack and Franz Xaver Gerl. The second has been credited consistently to Emanuel

Schikaneder, the Viennese impresario and friend of Mozart who commissioned *The Magic Flute* from him.

Leading authorities on Mozart have described the findings as significant. Neal Zaslaw, a professor of musicology at Cornell University, who is supervising a revision of the listing of the composer's works (known as the Köchel catalogue), said: "This is an important discovery. Professor Buch has the goods."

Professor Zaslaw approved Professor Buch's paper for its forthcoming publication in the *Cambridge Opera Journal*.

Professor Buch's research focused principally on the original score of *The Philosopher's Stone*, which he found while working in the archives of the City and University Library in Hamburg. The score had been removed to Leningrad by Soviet soldiers in 1945 and had been returned recently. Examination of the score turned up startling evidence: Mozart's name, written in an unknown

hand, appears above a duet which has been attributed to him in the past.

His name also appears above substantial portions of the finale to the Second Act. Furthermore, according to Professor Buch, the watermarks, paper, handwriting and music all support the conclusion that these sections of the opera were by Mozart.

The evidence that sections of *The Beneficent Dervish* are also by Mozart is more circumstantial and is based on Professor Buch's analysis of what is "Mozartian" composition. Written a year before *The Magic Flute*, the opera has passages which echo the more celebrated work.

Yesterday Stanley Sadie, the editor of the authoritative *New Grove Dictionary*, welcomed the news but sounded a word of caution: "Mozart kept an impressively complete catalogue of his work from 1784. There are no references there to either *The Philosopher's Stone* or *The Beneficent Dervish*," he said.



Emanuel Schikaneder, the impresario and friend of Mozart, who is generally thought to have composed one of the operas

Clinton under fire from both sides on anti-racist policies

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday faced a stinging backlash from black activists and conservatives on the eve of a keynote speech designed to make race relations the legacy of his White House.

Even as he was crafting the final paragraphs of his address in San Diego tomorrow, both black and white critics claimed his initiatives to heal the racial divide would amount to little more than impassioned rhetoric.

Conservatives gave a warning that the President's proposals, including the appointment of a seven-member advisory panel, a series of nationwide discussion groups and the publication of a personal White House report on race by next year, will merely solidify existing policies that have failed to resolve racial differences.

Many in black America believe in the end Mr Clinton will be unwilling to risk the anger of his majority white constituency to advocate policies truly beneficial to minorities.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist, said the President's increasingly conservative platform, had helped to alienate many blacks. The White House inner circle, he said, was effectively an all-white club. The President had waited until yesterday to appoint Bill Lann Lee, an Asian-American lawyer, as Assistant Attorney-General for civil rights, a position vacant for months.

"The President's challenge is to follow up his words with action," said Mr Jackson. "I don't see how he can do it."

While a big Gallup poll this week showed whites in America more tolerant than ever of their black compatriots, the underlying perception was of two communities divided.

For the first time, the survey found that a majority of whites approved of interracial marriage and, in what may prove an indicator for General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 93 per cent of Americans said they would now vote for a black President.

But while blacks said colour affected their opportunities, most whites claimed there was no discrimination, that blacks had as good a chance of finding employment, and that affirmative action programmes should decrease.

Conservative blacks such as Ward Connerly, a principal proponent of Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action legislation in California, said Mr Clinton would damage himself if he clung to race-based policies that impeded the progress of minorities.

A Southerner who grew up in the era of the civil rights movement, Mr Clinton has claimed a lifetime commitment to end what he describes as "America's constant curse".

The question that remains for Mr Clinton tomorrow is whether he can turn high-flown oratory into substantive policy in an initiative the White House hopes will not merely serve as his enduring legacy but will eclipse the controversies of Whitewater, irregular fundraising and the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones.

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Santer in Paris 'pact' on currency

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

IN A last-minute meeting aimed at healing the rift between France and its European partners over a single currency, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, went to Paris yesterday to present a compromise on the European Union monetary stability pact to Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, and President Chirac.

His efforts to smooth the way to an agreement at next week's European Union summit in Amsterdam on the new version of the Maastricht treaty appeared to have been fruitful.

After the meeting, M. Santer joined M. Jospin in expressing optimism that agreement could be reached. "We have had an exchange of views on the stability pact. All the facts are on the table to reach an agreement," M. Santer said as he left the Hôtel Matignon, the French Prime Minister's official residence, after a "constructive" meeting with M. Jospin.

He said he believed that M. Jospin was willing to ensure that the Amsterdam summit succeeded. He added that he had communicated the Commission's proposals to the EU's Dutch presidency. M. Jospin said that France's concern to redirect European economic policy towards promoting growth and jobs had met with understanding. He added: "What we are expressing concerns not only France but all European countries. I believe that these preoccupations have been understood."

The Jospin Government stunned Bonn on Monday by saying it would refuse to sign the pact in Amsterdam unless sections were added on employment and growth. The French left views the pact as a monetary straitjacket which runs counter to the greater political influence it wants to see on EU policy.

Amsterdam draft sets up border clashes for Blair

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE final draft of a new European Union treaty was issued yesterday, making clear that Tony Blair will face hard bargaining to win British demands over border control and the machinery of the future Union when EU leaders meet on Monday to settle a deal in Amsterdam.

With the goodwill towards the more Euro-friendly Labour Government waning quickly, the other EU states have still not agreed to Mr Blair's demand for a water-tight guarantee that Britain will continue to retain full control over its frontiers and immigration policy. In a bout of telephone diplomacy, the Prime Minister pressed his case yesterday on Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

The draft, finished by the Dutch EU presidency after 15 months' negotiation, also runs against Britain's wishes by creating machinery for a multi-speed Europe with no possibility of veto and committing the EU to acquiring its own military muscle. "We still have a big British problem," said a senior official from a Benelux state yesterday after the Government stood firm on border controls in the last pre-summit negotiation and surprised its partners with new demands over the social chapter.

Several states were irked by an unexpected request from London for two years to implement the directives in the chapter, which Britain is to join under the new Treaty of Amsterdam. However, other pieces were falling into place yesterday for the horse-trading among leaders to produce a new treaty next week. Among them, longstanding British demands for a curb on "quota-hopping" by Spanish and other fishing trawlers that fly British flags appeared close to solution, with a deal being

drafted at the Commission. France also appeared to be close to accepting a deal to allow it to sign the "stability pact" on monetary union, lifting the threat of a Franco-German crisis over the future euro that could hijack the Amsterdam conference.

On the social chapter, Britain said yesterday that it merely wants the same terms that were enjoyed by other states when the social chapter was launched in 1992, but officials from France, Germany and other members saw the proposal as a sign of continuing UK reluctance to join "Social Europe". Under one of the chapter's two directives, multinational firms and their unions must negotiate terms for setting up works councils. The other directive sets rules for unpaid parental leave.

The emerging settlement of the Franco-German spat on the management of monetary union should clear the decks for bargaining for a Maastricht II treaty. While the positive tone of the Labour Government is welcome across the EU, many continental diplomats see Britain entrenched in its EU role of awkward customer. A week into its life,



Jospin: anxious about job creation plan

France's Socialist Government has concluded that the Blair administration is closer to Bonn than to Paris on economic policy, especially on ways of giving the EU a bigger role in promoting jobs.

France, Belgium and other traditionally "social-minded" states have been annoyed by Mr Blair's crusade to promote flexible labour markets as the key to curbing unemployment. Tensions in this field will come to the fore when the leaders fix the text of the new "employment chapter", which will commit EU governments to co-ordinate their economic policies with the goals of growth and job creation. The draft answers French demands for EU money to be reserved for promoting jobs, but it severely limits the scope of any spending. Germany agreed to the employment chapter on Wednesday after long resistance by Theo Waigel, its Finance Minister.

Border control is the battleground on which Mr Blair aims to take a stand in Amsterdam. However, non-British officials argue that the draft assures Britain's opt-out from the move to abolish frontier controls and centralise authority over visas, immigration and some police work while it also answers Britain's wishes to "opt in" to any aspects that it chooses.

The text turns the EU into an open "area of freedom, security and justice", but notes that Britain and Ireland have their own frontier systems and are not party to it. Mr Blair wants explicit wording on Britain's permanent sovereignty over its frontiers, to avert any future challenge in the European Court of Justice, which acquires new powers in the treaty.

EU officials said Mr Blair's border wishes were almost certain to be granted, given that the British case had



Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, in parliament yesterday. He has long resisted the EU employment chapter, but Bonn has finally ceded the point

already been recognised, but he would have to make concessions in other fields. One of those could be the treaty's commitment to the eventual absorption of the Western European Union, the European defence arm of Nato, into the EU. Britain is resisting the move, with Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Austria, the neutral states. London argues that the Union has no role as a military power. The main area in

which London stands almost alone is in the machinery governing "flexibility", a system for enabling groups of countries to embark on new policies. The Government accepts the idea, but insists that such action can be triggered only by a unanimous vote, while the draft, supported by a big majority, says a "flexible" action may be launched by a qualified majority. Previous drafts had left open the decision on voting to the summit in Amsterdam.

In one of the most sensitive areas of EU reform, the draft text seeks to put off until the next century decisions on remodelling the make-up of the Commission and reweighting the votes held by member states. That should be left until the first new countries from Eastern and Central Europe begin joining the Union, the Dutch propose.

Congress sticks with veteran

Delhi: India's Congress party last night re-elected Sitaram Kesri, 76, a veteran politician, as its president. It was only the third election in the 112-year history of the country's oldest party, traditionally dominated by charismatic leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and his grandson, Rajiv. Congress has ruled India for all but five years since independence from Britain in 1947.

Mr Kesri swept aside challenges from two younger party leaders who ran on a platform of rejuvenating the ailing party that was ejected from power last year. (Reuters)

Angola clashes

Luanda: In the most serious fighting since a 1994 ceasefire, the Angolan Government and Unita fighters have clashed repeatedly in the northeast of the country and thousands of civilians have died. (Reuters)

Taiwan defiant

Taipei: Taiwan said it would hold war games as planned just before the Hong Kong handover, despite a warning from Beijing and a plea from the US. It denied the event was politically motivated. (AFP)

Korean aid

Dandong, China: The first shipments of Red Cross food aid to be delivered directly by South Korea to the starving North began rolling across the Yalu River on the Sino-North Korean border here. (AFP)

Warning shots

Lisbon: A Portuguese naval patrol boat fired three warning shots while chasing a Spanish trawler found fishing illegally off Portugal's southern coast but no one was hurt, the navy said. (Reuters)

Rapist jailed

Darmstadt: A US military court sentenced Sergeant First Class Paul Fuller, 25, to five years' jail for raping and forcibly sodomising female soldiers at this army base 20 miles from Frankfurt. (Reuters)

Volcano rescue

Manila: Three Japanese engineers and eight Filipino surveyors were rescued from mudflows emitted by Mount Pinatubo volcano as they were doing survey work on a river north of here. (AFP)

Unlucky break

Canberra: Thousands of Australian bureaucrats will mark today, Friday the 13th, with a 13-minute strike against government plans to lose 16,000 civil service jobs after previous budget cuts. (Reuters)

True confessions cause soul-searching by priests on nature of sin

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

PRIESTS in Italy are "re-evaluating sin" in the light of what they hear in the confessional, and gambling, tax evasion and "general egotism" now head the list rather than adultery and other sexual transgressions, according to a survey published yesterday.

The findings coincided with a broadside by a leading bishop against plans to expand casinos in Italy.

The Vatican is in the final stages of formulating a New Catechism, prompting leading conservatives

such as Cardinal Ersilio Tonini, Archbishop of Ravenna, to campaign against any softening in definitions of what is sinful.

"There is a tendency in these days of slipping standards to redefine sins as errors or peccadillos," Cardinal Tonini said yesterday. "But a sin is a sin. Avarice, hatred and lust are sins."

Corriere della Sera said a national survey of priests showed that most believed modern society had made people less conscious of sin and "more dishonest and egotistical". It quoted Don Paolo Turturro, a priest in Palermo, as saying that "a society dominated by capitalism

and the mass media is rendering the soul sterile, blackening the spirit... People have a greater sense of guilt but a lesser sense of sin."

Mgr Gianfranco Ravasi, from Milan, said he and many other priests found believers were most preoccupied with "social problems, such as whether and how to pay their next tax bill". He said sexual problems still figured in confessions, "but not in the self-lacerating way they used to... Thirty years ago we were scandalised if we saw a girl and a boy heading off somewhere in the same car".

Leonardo Zega, Editor of Famiglia Cristiana, the best-selling

Catholic magazine, said spiritual impoverishment was caused by "superficial modern gods which cloud the mind - television, fashion, technology as an end in itself", with parents failing to impose discipline on youngsters.

He said there had been a falling off in confessions: in Rome, despite its proximity to Vatican City and the Pope, only 10 per cent say they are practising Catholics, and of those only 10 per cent go to confession regularly.

Don Alesandro Di Giacomo, a priest in Rome, said the "decline of moral values" meant that many of his parishioners who did go to

confession "tell me they cannot think of anything to confess".

Mgr Domenico Caliendo, the Bishop of Santa Maria di Leuca, near Lecce, said the growth of gaming and "games of chance" was a further symptom of moral decline.

"Casinos pose a danger to family values, and are contrary to Christian ethics," said Bishop Caliendo, who is fighting plans to open a casino in Lecce in southern Italy.

There are only four casinos operating legally in Italy, but 20 towns have applied for casino licences. "Gambling is a grave sin which creates a dangerous dependence and alienates people from true

values," the bishop told La Repubblica. He admitted that the Church was obliged to turn a blind eye to "lesser" forms of gambling, such as the lottery, football pools and scratch cards bought at bars and tobacconists.

All three are hugely popular in Italy, although sales have dropped because of scandals involving fraud and mismanagement.

Meeting hope: The Russian Patriarch Aleksii II has written to the Pope, expressing the hope that the two might reschedule their historic meeting, which was to have been held on June 21 but was cancelled, the Vatican said yesterday. (AP)

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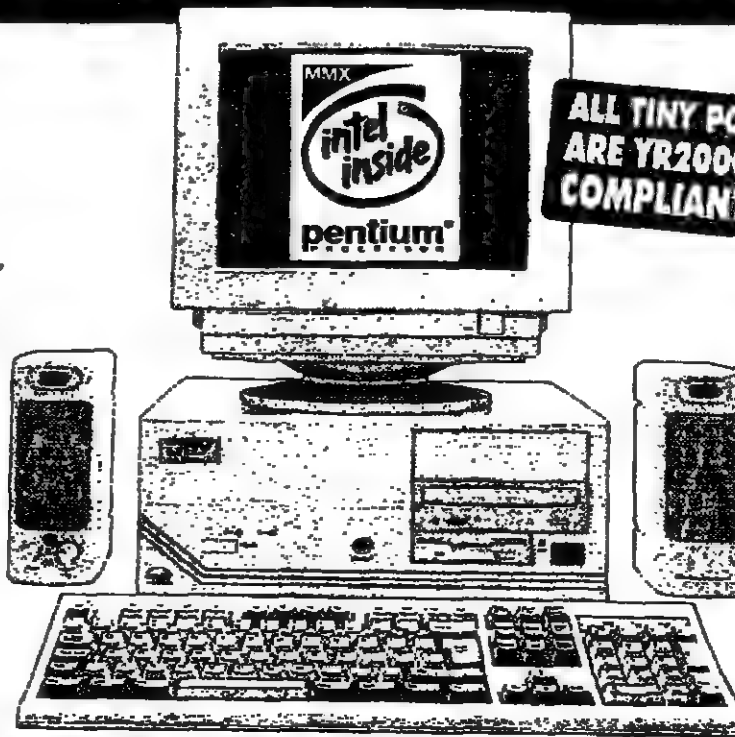
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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997

US limits Nato expansion to three in opening phase

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN BRUSSELS

THE United States announced yesterday that it would support only three countries — Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary — to join Nato in the first wave of the alliance's planned expansion into Eastern Europe.

The announcement was made simultaneously by William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, at a meeting of Nato defence ministers in Brussels, and by the White House.

Washington's declaration in favour of only three effectively put paid to the chances of Romania and Slovenia squeezing into the first batch of successful applicants, despite support from a number of Nato members, including France, Italy and Spain.

George Robertson, making his first appearance as Defence Secretary at a Nato meeting, also announced that the British Government supported "a smaller rather than larger" enlargement in the first wave.

He also cast doubt on whether a second wave was guaranteed. He said the integration of three new members would present a significant challenge for Nato and, although the door would remain open for other members, the alliance would need time to absorb the first wave.

He said Britain would take a pragmatic approach. Any expansion of Nato after the first wave would "depend on its ability to adapt to enlargement" without reducing its military effectiveness.

Despite the support for Romania and Slovenia from at least half a dozen Nato members, British officials said there was clearly total agreement within the alliance about Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. "So at least we have consensus on three," one official said.

With the full expectation that the rest of Nato will now have to fall into line behind the American decision, every effort will be made to include in the text of the Nato summit in Madrid — where the three countries will be invited to begin accession negotiations — sufficiently encouraging language to demonstrate to failed applicants that all is not lost and that the door will remain open.

Mr Cohen's statement to the Nato ministers was not the only new development. For it soon became clear yesterday that the alliance has no hope of completing its internal restructuring programme in time for the Madrid summit on July 8 and 9.

The Nato dream only a few months ago was that the Madrid summit would provide the setting for four historic events that would show to the world how Nato had changed: the invitation to three or more countries to join

the alliance by 1999, a special security deal with Russia, the declared reintegration of France into the Nato military structure, and a revamped command set-up to reflect the changing world.

To the alliance's dismay, what should have been the easiest part of Nato's transformation after the end of the Cold War — reorganising its internal structures including fewer command headquarters — has proved the most difficult.

France under President Chirac made it clear to Nato that it was prepared to rejoin the integrated structure after walking out more than 30 years ago, provided the alliance reformed itself into a leaner and less American-dominated organisation.

Now, with less than a month to go before the Madrid

summit, alliance officials admit there is no chance of reaching consensus on a new command structure and little hope of persuading France to announce its reintegration by July 8. But Mr Robertson said that the new French Government was just as keen on reintegration as the previous administration.

The most difficult challenge was perceived to be a negotiated agreement with Russia to sign some form of security charter with the alliance. However, Russia signed a Founding Act with Nato in Paris last month.

The best that the alliance's officials can predict is that the issue of internal reforms might be resolved before the end of the year. This would also postpone any announcement by President Chirac about reintegration.



Javier Solana, left, the Nato Secretary-General, greets William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, at the alliance ministers' meeting in Brussels yesterday

Foreigners' kidnap fears rise in Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE evacuation of two British families from Moscow, after they were threatened with kidnapping by Russian gangsters, has raised fears among expatriates that they may become targets of a new trend in hostage-taking.

According to businessmen and security experts, the Western community in Moscow has so far been shielded from the violence associated with Russian business, but this could change.

On Wednesday the wives and children of two British businessmen working for Philip Morris, the American tobacco giant, were evacuated under tight security after they were threatened.

Richard Prior, of Kroll Associates in Moscow, an American security company, said that foreigners living in Russia were vulnerable to kidnappers. "People involved in the distribution of goods, particularly tobacco and alcohol, are more prone to coming into contact with extortionists and organised criminals," he said. "It would be dangerous to think foreigners are immune from this kind of attack."

Hostage-taking goes back generations in Russia and the Caucasus. Among Russian criminals, taking a family member hostage is a reliable way of ensuring repayment of a loan. However, kidnapping for ransom is new here.

In Chechnya, the break-away republic notorious for its criminal gangs, a number of journalists have been taken

hostage since the beginning of the year, and five are still missing. Most of the others, including an Italian photographer, were only released after ransoms were paid.

Senior foreign executives working in Russia are convinced that organised crime is not going away. A senior British businessman said: "All the big multinationals here have to deal with extremely dodgy distributors, particularly those involved in the sale of cigarettes and vodka. Threatening people's lives is how they do business."

General Anatoli Kutikov, the Interior Minister, said yesterday that economic crimes were on the increase and he estimated that one in four successful Russian busi-

nessmen was linked to the criminal underworld.

Most senior executives have taken steps to protect themselves. As a rule, they hire armed security guards, usually drawn from the ranks of the Russian military, the police or the intelligence services, and sometimes working in conjunction with British security firms. Some spouses and children have their own bodyguards.

Last year, two British businessmen were shot, one fatally, when they were caught in crossfire during gangland shootings in a Moscow restaurant and a St Petersburg hotel. In November, an American hotelier was shot in a contract killing, even though he was accompanied by a bodyguard.

Judges let topless go over the top

FROM RICHARD CLERK IN OTTAWA

HUNDREDS of women in dozens of Ontario towns are going about bare-breasted in parks, on streets, at work, and on beaches as a result of a provincial court decision this year which ruled that women have as much right as men to be topless in public.

Municipal administrations in Ontario, Canada's most populous province, with 10 million people, are at a loss to deal with the impact of the unexpected court decision.

It began two years ago when Gwen Jacobs, a young woman from Guelph, Ontario, went bare-breasted in a park on a hot summer day. She was arrested and charged with indecent exposure.

But Miss Jacobs fought the charge in court. She won and the case worked its way all the way up to the Ontario Court of Appeal which ruled in her favour during the winter.

Nothing happened until about a week ago when a heat wave hit Ontario and women of every age and size began taking advantage of the decision. Several municipalities have responded by passing bylaws restricting bare breasts to designated beaches.

In Vanier, a suburb of Ottawa, three topless dancers caused a traffic jam when they stood outside their club bare-breasted holding signs that read "Choose your topping".

In many cities young people who clean car windscreens for a "donation" have been working topless. Some of the girls have seen their takings double since they took their tops off.

Mortgages

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Penny Perry: she is her father's daughter — same looks and the same straight-talking manner

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



For 249 at Christie's next Friday is "The lawn tennis racquet manufactured by Slazenger, London, used by the victorious Fred Perry in the finals of the Men's Singles Championship, Wimbledon 1934. Concave throat with monogram F.J.P. Some strings defective." The expected bidding range is £1,000 to £1,500.

It is, as we never tire of reminding ourselves, 60 years since Fred Perry, son of a Labour MP from Lancashire, won the men's title at Wimbledon three years in succession. Never supplanted, Perry still enjoys his unique hero status, in death as in life.

Now Bobby, Fred Perry's widow, and their daughter Penny, will sell off the relics, trophies and medals which have reposed in the Wimbledon museum for 20 years. Even that hallowed racket, "Not the racket, mum!" said Fred Perry's grandson, John Frederick Perry, a cricket-playing schoolboy of 12, when he heard about the sale. "Tough, kiddo!" was his mum's robust reply.

Penny Perry is her father's daughter — same looks, glittering-eyed smile, long-legged athletic frame, straight-talking manner. Same grip too. She has inherited Fred's continental grip on her Wilson Sledgehammer.

This Wednesday she came off the courts at Saltsdean Tennis Club wearing the distinctive Fred Perry pleated skirt she has had since her schooldays — she always flies the flag, though the company is now owned by the Japanese — having won her first round match in the ladies' singles.

"For the first time in my life I'm enjoying my tennis," she said, cheerily. "It all goes back to Fred, of course. He wouldn't aid or abet me in any way. I think he only ever watched me twice, from behind a hedge. He certainly never coached me and wouldn't have opened any doors for me. If I was going to make it I would have to do it myself — so my enthusiasm

Why my father's trophies had to go

Penny Perry explains why she and her mother have decided to sell the mementoes of Fred Perry, England's greatest tennis star

went out of the window. "Dad knew the women's circuit was tough, and he told me, 'You haven't got it in the head. You can hit the ball but you haven't got it upstairs.' I never took tennis seriously, so Dad was right on the attitude."

Perry was born in 1938 — in the same hospital as Chrissie Evert — in Florida, where her parents lived most of the time. Fred was 50 when she was born, having had three childless earlier marriages, all to actresses.

He mixed in the Hollywood social set, playing tennis with Charlie Chaplin and Groucho Marx, and was constantly

was shipped out there every Christmas, unwillingly. "Sounds ungracious, spoilt brat — but I was an only child, deposited in the middle of nowhere with not a friend in sight."

She played tennis in the park — there was no court at home — or at school, St Mary's Hall in Brighton. "But I was Penny Perry, so they'd say, 'Oh, I suppose you must be brilliant.' Then if I played like a complete dodo they could say 'I beat Fred's daughter,' or if I beat them they'd say 'Well what do you expect? You couldn't win. I took the easy way out and just didn't bother."

rubbing in my head. There is nothing more stimulating than the South Downs in March."

Widowhood also brought her back on to a tennis court. Even though she had worked on the PR side of Dunlop, she had not picked up a racket since her schooldays. "A friend turned up on Saltsdean club night and said, get your racket. I retrieved from the back of a cupboard my old wooden Dunlop Maxply. Peals of laughter all round."

They let her try out a graphite racket "and the ball ended up in London". You're a hard hitter? "Yeah." Her eyes

says, Fred had offered them so that they would stay in England. "They were costing us a fortune, the insurance, and the cleaning; a lady came in every Monday who worked all day on the silver alone, and my parents weren't even there half the year."

"We would never have sold them in his lifetime. But when he died, clubs and museums all over the world asked whether they could have something of Fred's. He was a diplomat for the game. Why shouldn't Mum benefit? Fred's gone, there's no emotional pull, no personal qualms. As far as my mother's concerned they were won before she met him anyway, and we know what he did, so why do we need to look at trophies?"

So next Friday at Christie's, the medals, ties, trophies, rackets — and Fred's golf clubs, typewriter and Zippo lighter — go under the hammer. As for the great racket, I think it should go to grandson John, if the Wimbledon museum is silly enough not to bid for it.



Fred Perry in 1934 — and the start of his record-breaking three years as Wimbledon champion

offered screen tests himself. Perry says her parents' marriage lasted because all the previous wives had competed with Fred, whereas her mother — sister of the actress Patricia Roc, and formerly a Hollywood wife herself — was no threat.

"Fred and I had a typical father-daughter relationship. I couldn't do a thing wrong. But he wasn't around much. They left me here to be educated, I lived at home in Rottingdean with my nanny-guardian, Miss Bishop, who is still part of the family. My mother had to make the choice: travel with Fred and dump me here, or stay maternal, which wasn't really her bag, and lose Fred to another woman. He was famous and extremely tasty and chaseable: she had to go with him. She made the right decision, and I don't resent that."

Fred and Bobby spent every winter in Jamaica, where he owned a golf club. So Penny

Dad's attitude was, 50 per cent of the person is the other parent anyway. I look like him and I have his temperament and positive attitude. We both call a spade a bloomin' spade, and if someone asks an opinion they get it. (She said Gustavo Kuerten, the Brazilian who won the recent French Open, "looked like an unmade bed.")

Her great passion now is her horse, Maggie May, a 12-year-old mare. She was a present from her husband, David Aston, shortly before he died. Three years ago, at the age of 41, he simply keeled over with a brain haemorrhage.

Penny was "totally zombified" by sudden widowhood at 35: "I couldn't bring myself to do anything. I had no energy. I didn't want to see or talk to anybody." Riding was her therapy. "It released all the

blaze. "Fred thought the modern racket was detrimental to the men's game, encouraging wham bam, bliff bang grunt. But he always acknowledged it had revolutionised the women's game."

Her father's relationship with Wimbledon was chequered. He became persona non grata to the All England Club when he went professional and left for America in 1936. Even when I, as a schoolgirl in 1961, joined the Herga Club in Harrow, Fred's old club, Perry's name was still mentioned in slightly hushed tones.

But as decades passed and we still had no new Fred Perry, Wimbledon buried the hatchet, named a gate after him and erected a bronze statue. When he died in 1995 his ashes were buried there too, with a plaque saying simply "Fred".

The All England Club was "horrified" at the thought of losing the trophies, Penny

But there is no fathoming the collective mind of the All England Club. For 47 years, Fred delivered his genial radio commentaries from Wimbledon and Bobby was always there. After his death, people assumed that the club might be generous enough to make Bobby a member — though neither of the Perrys suggested this.

"You don't deal with the All England Club; they deal with you," says Penny. "But their official view was that it would set a precedent. Well, my understanding of a precedent is that it opens a floodgate. But where are all the other English champions' widows?"

"My official response to them was, surely my mother needs access to Wimbledon. At 78, it's the only pleasure she's got left. The man's buried there! She must be able to get into Wimbledon." Finally they came round to offering a gracious pair of tickets for the championships, so mother and daughter will be there as ever.

"Wimbledon remains the most wonderful place in the world for us," Penny says. "Whenever Fred was asked, if he could play just one more set, where would it be, he would say, the Centre Court at Wimbledon. Fred's attitude to Wimbledon never changed."

THE SUNDAY TIMES



Before she was Queen: Sarah Bradford on the happy childhood and eccentric father of the Queen Mother



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SCARFE MEETS DISNEY



Disney animation moves into sharper focus for its latest film, Hercules, using the satirical cartoonist Gerald Scarfe. An exclusive preview in The Sunday Times this weekend

The wrong foot forward

John Prescott showed this week why men shouldn't dance, says Joe Joseph



John and Pauline Prescott on the Waldorf dancefloor

Watching an elegant man on the dancefloor is an unending source of hope to mankind. The hope is that he has drunk enough vodka beforehand not to realise that he looks a complete idiot — unless, of course, he really is in the process of describing to his partner the complex movements of an East African tribal dance.

What John Prescott forgot when he let his hair down so extravagantly at the Waldorf this week was the first lesson that any man should learn in dance class: it only takes two to tango, and neither of them has to be you.

As yesterday's report from the journal *Nature* disclosed, men lack the important gene that gives women intuition, social graces, and the ability to dance without looking like an angry native in a Rider Haggard novel. Pauline Prescott managed to look as graceful on the dancefloor as she does off it because she lacks the gene that forces men to invent a completely novel way of articulating their body every time they decide to dance. Men essentially retain the instinct of the genes they had as sperm, which is to flail around wildly, not minding whom you bump into in the vicinity.

Dancing ability in a man — let alone in a leading politician — is so rare that Barbara Castle recently pointed out that although she disliked Hugh Gaitskill because of his "cold, calculating intolerance" towards Bevan, Gaitskill "was a very good dancer, and to me that is more important than politics in a man". Baroness Castle may think that a gentleman knows how to dance. In fact, a true gentleman knows how to dance — but doesn't he doesn't want to show the rest of us up.

The odd thing is that many men did actually go to dancing lessons run by ladies

called Miss Ballantyne or Miss Hocking, at five guineas an hour. But that was only because their parents didn't know at that stage that they might as well shed the money and use it as cat litter — it being only several years later that they saw their son on a dancefloor and realised that they had unknowingly given birth to the world's first human hydra.

Most men follow the same dance routine. There is the movement where the man stamps on imaginary insects which he fears might soon crawl up his trouser leg, while at the same time waving anxiously to passers-by to come to his assistance. There is a slower version of this that is deployed by a man who finds himself on the

dancefloor with his niece or great aunt when the DJ has put a smoochy number on the turntable: the foot movements are the same, only the man looks as if he is doing them while in a vat of chewing gum.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997

FEATURES 19

Puccini - and a fight at the opera



Giacomo Puccini, whose death in 1924 led to a running legal dispute over his legacy to his offspring

Count Livio Dell'Anna, left, and his butler, Pasquale Belladonna; centre, the will scene from *Gianni Schicchi*; Puccini's opera about a tussle over an inheritance; and, right, Simonetta Puccini the composer's granddaughter

In 1918, six years before he died, the great Italian composer Giacomo Puccini wrote an opera called *Gianni Schicchi*, with a typically convoluted and colourful plot revolving around a tussle over an inheritance. This week, in a development that could have come straight from one of Puccini's works, a long-running legal dispute over the composer's own legacy to his offspring was resolved, with various delectable (if neglected) villas and other assets being divided up between Puccini's illegitimate granddaughter and a former family butler.

The subtitle of this true-life melodramatic opera might be "Love, Betrayal, and the Missing Millions". It certainly boasts a cast of characters as outlandish as anything to be found in *Tosca*, *Manon Lescaut* or *Madame Butterfly*. This week's victor is 68-year-old Simonetta Puccini, Puccini's granddaughter, who gets several of the Puccini properties, including the Villa Puccini at Torre del Lago on Lake Massaciuccoli near Viareggio on the Tuscan coast, where a festival of Puccini music is held every summer. But the former family retainer, Pasquale Belladonna (even the names are operatic), may have the last laugh before the final curtain: Simonetta Puccini's lawyers suspect he has spent much of what she has been contesting for all these years. He is certainly living in some style in Monte Carlo at the ripe old age of 77, thumbing his nose at the judges and claiming he has no idea what can have happened to the loot.

The plot begins with the maestro himself, who was brought up by his formidable

A long-running legal battle over the inheritance of the great Italian composer Giacomo Puccini ended this week in victory for his granddaughter. But the story may not be over yet, says Richard Owen

mother after his father died when the budding composer was only five. Puccini's adored mother died when he was 26, and he declared that he would "never be happy without my darling mother, whatever triumphs art may bring me". Perhaps seeking a substitute "strong woman", he ran off the following year, 1885, with Elvira Gemignani, a woman of striking looks and character, blithely overlooking the inconvenient fact that she was married to someone else at the time. They lived an unconventional life far from the sophisticated urban existence of Milan or Rome, on the shores of Lake Massaciuccoli (now a protected bird sanctuary), in an area much frequented by the English Romantic poets nearly a hundred years before (Shelley drowned off Viareggio in 1822). Puccini and Elvira had an illegitimate son, Antonio, although Elvira eventually married Puccini in 1904, after her husband had died.

Married bliss might have followed, except that Puccini fell in love with the maid, a girl from the nearby village of Torre del Lago, and Elvira (perhaps not unnaturally) became intensely jealous, driving the girl out of the villa with dire death threats. The maid poisoned herself, or perhaps was poisoned by Elvira (there was a trial, which came to nothing, thanks to Puccini's influence); ironically, a post mortem carried out at the insistence of the girl's family found that she was still a virgin. But the maid was not the only extra marital object of

Puccini's affections, and he embarked on a long series of affairs, usually with girls (like the maid at the villa) who were his social inferiors — rather as the impoverished but sophisticated artists of *La Bohème* take up with poor working girls such as Mimì, the consumptive seamstress.

Surprisingly, given his appetite for female company, when Puccini died in Brussels

As in the best plots, victory may have a bitter aftertaste for Simonetta Puccini

in 1924, at the age of 66, there was only one illegitimate son to inherit his properties and the rights to his music — Antonio. When Antonio died just after the Second World War, in one of his father's Riviera villas, his wife Rita inherited the estates, and when she in turn died in 1979 her brother, Count Livio Dell'Anna, another noted Riviera socialite, took them over until his death in 1986. (I trust the audience is still with me.) At which point — enter Count Livio's butler, Signor Belladonna, who claims that the Count left the Puccini legacy to

him. The legacy includes not only the villas but also considerable royalties on Puccini's music, which were accumulated and invested until copyright ran out 20 years ago.

The problem for the trustees of the Puccini and Dell'Anna estates has been to establish exactly how much of this legacy is left — and who squandered it. Signor Belladonna's version, from the comforts of Monaco, is that Count Livio ran through most of the assets after the death of Rita, and bequeathed what little was left to the butler (with whom the unmarried Count had what is described euphemistically as a "close personal relationship"). The chairman of the trustees, Aldo Giarizzo, is not convinced: when the Count's bank accounts were audited shortly before he died, he says, they contained £17 million. Where can it have all gone, asks Signor Giarizzo, gazing towards Monte Carlo, where the living is easy but not cheap, even in retirement.

The final act opened in 1973, with the first appearance on stage of Simonetta Puccini, then in her forties. She was undoubtedly Antonio Puccini's daughter — but by a ballet dancer from Milan and not, unfortunately, by Antonio's wife Rita. Simonetta Puccini took legal action to be formally acknowledged as a Puccini, and won her case after a 12-year battle in the courts. She then set about contesting the butler's right to the will after the death of Count Livio. Two years ago she won the first round, when a court at Lucca,

Puccini's Tuscan birthplace, ruled that Simonetta Puccini had the right to one third of the Puccini inheritance.

The butler appealed, and this week came the denouement: Simonetta Puccini, who for years catalogued her grandfather's archives without payment, is to get both the villa at Torre del Lago (where Puccini wrote his unfinished *Turandot*, and where he and his wife are buried) and his birthplace at Lucca, as well as an undisclosed cash sum.

As in the best plots, however, victory may have a bitter aftertaste: the estate trustees say that because of the huge debts run up by the high-living former butler, some of the Puccini properties may have to be sold off. Simonetta Puccini has also found, to her dismay, that the villa at Torre del Lago is in a poor state of repair, with many of its treasures and mementoes carried off by thieves. On the other hand, if anyone can be relied on to put Puccini's legacy back together again it is the vigorous and feisty Simonetta Puccini, who at 68 remains a doughty defender of her grandfather's reputation. She recently took action to stop an Italian television soap opera based on his life and times which she said portrayed him as "the vulgar kind of womaniser and whoremonger" while ignoring his "kind and human side".

Clearly, the last act has not quite finished yet: after all, neither Simonetta Puccini nor

Pasquale Belladonna is young any more, and neither has any children. Who knows who might pop up to challenge the trustees and claim The Puccini Inheritance when the granddaughter and the butler finally leave the stage?

In *Gianni Schicchi*, Puccini was able to tie up all the loose

ends nicely: after all, he was in charge of the plot. *Schicchi*, a wily late 13th-century Florentine wheeler-dealer, manages to outwit all the avaricious relatives and hangers-on hoping to benefit from the will of a wealthy merchant. Instead *Schicchi* arranges things so that a miraculously discovered new will delivers the entire inheritance to a deserving pair of lovers, Rinuccio and Lauretta. As far as we know, there is no such neat ending to the real-life drama: but given that life so often imitates art, perhaps there is a long-lost alternative Puccini will lying in a dusty corner of one of his decaying villas. Perhaps there is one final aria waiting to be discovered, on the principle that the opera ain't over till the fat lady sings.

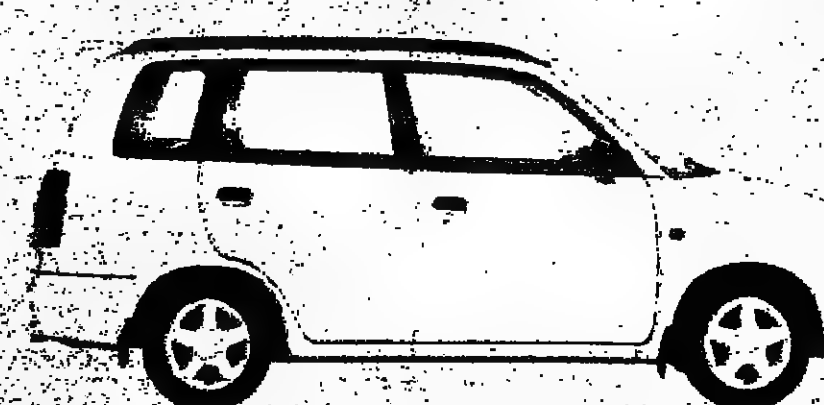
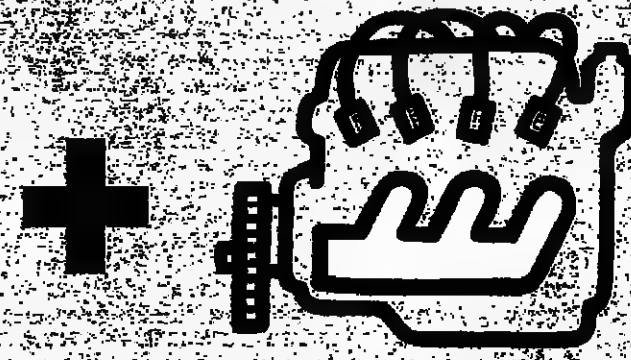
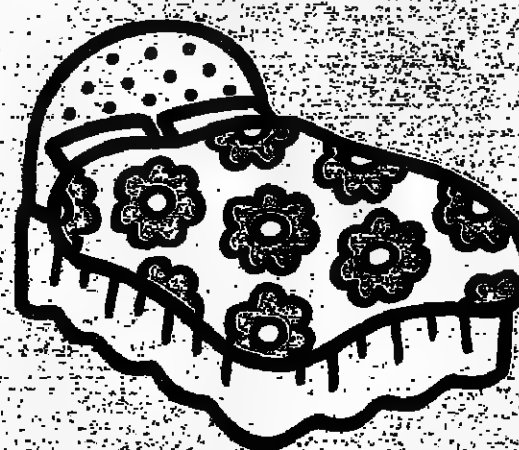
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EU follows the Blair principle

Putting skills before jobs makes good sense, says John Lloyd

In 1981, when Tony Blair was looking for a seat, Pope John Paul II published an encyclical named *Laborum Exercens* — "On Human Work". The only legitimate title to the ownership of the means of production," said John Paul, "is that it serves to advance work."

In the decade and a half which followed, all of Europe's economies have seen not the advance but the retreat of work. The absolute priority of work over capital has not been enshrined but in practice downgraded.

In practice but not in rhetoric, all European governments remained committed to a goal of full employment. Jobs, jobs, jobs is the new mantra, even as they continue, in most states, to go, go, go.

In the matter of advancing work there are two broad responses, which now appear mutually incompatible. The one, still broadly offered by most of the Christian and Social Democratic parties of the Continent, is to treat *Laborum Exercens* literally. In none is this more true than in the country that encloses the Holy See: Italian public sector workers still have an effective title to continued employment

whether there is government intervention in the closure of the Renault plant in Belgium.

New Labour does not believe in the provident State: it believes in the worker equipped to survive. There is a fundamental difference of philosophy here.

The election of the French Socialists has been held to be a grave setback to a more realistic — for which read Blairite — mood in the European Union. But its demands for increased employment rights runs against the trend. It will get an employment chapter written into a revised Maastricht treaty at the Amsterdam EU summit next week — but Germany has made it clear that its agreement on this plan, originally put up by the Swedes, is conditional on it being declarative only, with employment policies being left largely to individual states.

At state level, it is the flexible approach which is winning — because business everywhere is so overwhelmingly in favour of that approach and governments of the Left or Right are increasingly unsure that any other is viable. The German Government strains to inject some flexibility into its labour market: in a speech last month, its junior Foreign Minister, Werner Hoyer, said that "we must become more flexible and faster, be prepared to discard our European arrogance". In Sweden, a social-democratic nirvana until the 1990s, the policy, advice for radical deregulation accumulated a report from its Centre for Business and Policy Studies this week says that the "restrictions and rigidities which have been piled on the Swedish labour market" must go if jobs are to be created.

The modern worker must be equipped to survive

Even as the French Socialists argue for statism, they do much the same as new Labour. Martine Aubry, number two in the Jospin Cabinet and already dubbed "Madame Emploi", is using a network of business leaders she met while working in the private sector to put up ideas for job creation. She has an ally in Nicole Notat, the leader of the reformist union federation CFTD, who argues that if workers are to work fewer hours, they must be prepared to receive lower pay. France is getting flexible too, in its own way.

The two ways of fulfilling the papal call — the continental and the Anglo-Saxon — are, in the real world, too starkly counterposed. New Labour has copied much from the Continent, especially in the fields of education and training, and is now being studied in return. The speed of adoption of the new varies according to national culture and political constraints: one should not be surprised that workers are reluctant to give up rights. But the EU members in Amsterdam next week will agree to sign a meaningless employment chapter — and then get on with the hard business of seeing what works in their own labour markets.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



"AS ONE DOOR CLOSSES, ANOTHER ONE . . . SLAMS IN YOUR FACE"

Bonfire of my vanities

I will never rule Britain, Cyprus or Swaziland. No aptitude, you see. But show me an after-dinner audience . . .

Matthew Parris

At the age of six I was seized by an ambition to become the Governor of Cyprus. This was a settled intention, not a whim, though it dawned on me suddenly and for a reason.

It happened like this. We lived in Nicosia, my father being an expatriate electrical engineer. I had fallen on my head and had a big bandage around my temples. At Christmas the Governor, General Sir John Harding, always gave a party at Government House for the British children in Nicosia, and I went.

Unseen by us, the Governor landed in a helicopter (we could hear its blades beating) then, as excitement mounted among the children, appeared from behind one of the room's walls, which parted magically with a whirr of motors. Sir John was a charismatic man and friendly to his infant guests. There had been bombings and shootings in Nicosia and British people were nervous. The Governor spotted the bandage on my head and made a beeline for me. "Been in the wars, young man?" he asked, looking concerned.

"I fell off my bicycle." "You must be careful." And with that, he moved on.

Strangely excited, I conceived that day the idea of becoming Governor myself, living in a mansion with magic walls, beating the Eoka terrorists, giving parties for children and landing in helicopters.

Later General Harding was recalled to London and replaced with a progressive-minded civilian, Hugh Foot, who cancelled the parties because they were colonialist, and sold out to the terrorists. I decided to be a Conservative — partly because of the terrorists, but mostly because Foot had cancelled the parties.

When we moved to Southern Rhodesia I was nine and the Governor-General was Lord Dalhousie. By then I knew enough to know that you could not select where you wanted to be Governor: of you entered the Colonial Service and waited for a governorship to become available. I determined to do this. Sent to boarding school in Swaziland, I was chosen when the Governor, Sir Francis Lloyd, came to our speech day, to meet his Daimler at the bottom of the hill, welcome Sir Francis and direct his driver to the car park. He said nothing at all to me, impressing me (at 14) with his elevation, inscrutability and reserve. Swaziland would do.

I wrote to the Colonial Service in London asking how to apply and was advised to aim for the Dependent Territories Department at the Foreign Office, which seemed a come-down. The reply hinted that career opportunities in this field might be limited. So I decided to become an ambassador.

The young man who, entering the Diplomatic Service ten years later (having turned down the offer of a job as a spy on the ground that nobody would know how important I was) felt fairly confident that it was now only a matter of time before embassy

would be writing wise and weighty articles advising the nation on questions such as who ought to be the next leader of the Conservative Party (now that it was no longer going to be me). The whole 1922 Committee, surely, would be waiting upon one's words. "What is Parris recommending in this leadership thing?" "I don't think he's pronounced yet." "Ah, we must stay our judgment until he writes." The goal would be to become the chronicler of one's times, counselor to a whole generation.

Aware that one is, as yet, a little short of this goal, I while away the time with diversions of a more ephemeral kind. The other day I found myself in a sort of cage suspended above a huge nightclub called The Dome in Birmingham with

Danny La Rue, the veteran female impersonator, and a number of screen celebrities. We were judging the "Mr Gay UK competition". As a succession of muscular hunks pranced before us in their underpants, I briefly asked myself whether this was better or worse than being Governor of Swaziland or Prime Minister. It was certainly different.

Then there are the after-dinner speeches. You can get yourself on to the books of speaker agencies who hire you out for occasions when an amusing speech (in my case containing not too many facts) is called for. The fee is rather embarrassing, so one does it, as often as not, the people turn out to be better company than you expect but I am determined to cut down, for fear of getting stale.

I did, however, agree to speak after dinner at the Waldorf for a company called Financial Objects plc last week.

I had arranged to be late and, entering a huge ballroom-style dining hall, found the dinner already in full swing. But there was something different about the occasion: a sort of

wild hilarity. I heard bangs and claps, playing cards slapping on to tables, peals of laughter. I saw a huge upturned top hat. It dawned on me that magicians were working the room.

In fact there were two: Fay Presto and her accomplice, Zap. Fay was rather beautiful with a husky voice, generous cleavage, big hands and a prominent Adam's apple — strange, ambiguously sexy. It dawned on me that she had changed her gender. I learnt that she used to be a motorcycle dispatch rider called Oliver.

And she was a brilliant magician. So was Zap. The two of them were holding tables spellbound. Zap did an unbelievable rope trick at my table, as cheers rang out for Fay at another. By now we were on the coffee, and Fay Presto took the stage and performed a card trick which ended with a card selected and signed by a random diner being discovered thumb-tacked to the ceiling 20 feet above us. Nobody knows how she did it. She bowed and skipped from the room with Zap, to raucous applause. Follow that. "Mr Parris will now deliver his speech," said our host.

My heart sank. But Financial Objects plc and their guests were a good and bright crowd and they treated me kindly. The speech did not flop, and as I sat down to rather less rapturous applause than had greeted the magicians, in rushed Fay Presto. "I left my bag of tricks behind," she said to me.

"You were fantastic," I said. "They seemed to like you too, darling," she said. "Have you been on the circuit long?"

"Oh . . . no, not really; not very long." "Well good luck," she said, departing with her top hat and rube.

I took the Number 15 bus home to Limehouse. It was a warm night. As I passed Tower Bridge, a huge display of fireworks was going on over the Thames.

So it has come to this. Not Governor. Not an ambassador. Not Prime Minister. Not a television star. But here I am working an audience for a fee, with a transgender magician and her assistant, Zap. And would you like another article on who ought to become leader of the Conservative Party? Sorry, but I haven't the least idea. As I watched the fireworks from the bus, I didn't really care. I wish I could do Zap's rope trick.

A bridge, not a wall of China

Britain will abide by Hong Kong, says Robin Cook

At midnight on Monday tonight, the eyes of the world will be on Hong Kong. Over the next two weeks nearly 9,000 journalists, 40 or so foreign ministers and countless thousands of others will make the famous descent into Kai Tak airport. Breakfast television will be anchored from Hong Kong. The press are preparing surveys and supplements. The films and novels are already out.

The world will watch an event with no precedent in modern history: the peaceful transfer of sovereignty over 6.5 million people and 400 square miles of territory. An extraordinarily successful society will pass from one great nation to another, each with very different traditions. The basis for that transfer was agreed by Margaret Thatcher in 1984. It was a done deal when the new Government came in. There was no possibility of changing a single detail.

So what is the new British Government's role in this? On my first day in the Foreign Office, a long six weeks ago, I made clear that we saw a successful transition for Hong Kong, on the basis of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, one of our highest priorities: that there would be continuity of policy and that Chris Patten would stay as Governor; and that we were committed to the well-being of the people of Hong Kong, particularly the rule of law and the rights and freedoms they now enjoy.

Since then, Hong Kong has taken a great deal of my attention. I have seen Chris Patten and Martin Lee in London. In Parliament and elsewhere, I have reaffirmed that we will do all we can to ensure that China fulfils the detailed promises made in the Joint Declaration.

With that in mind, we have decided that no British minister will attend the swearing-in of a provisional legislature appointed to replace a body elected by more than a million Hong Kong people. We have agreed to report to Parliament every six months on Hong Kong, at least until the turn of century.

I have also put Hong Kong at the top of the agenda for my meetings with other foreign ministers, starting with Madeleine Albright. A successful, stable and free Hong Kong matters to the whole international community. Next week at the Amsterdam European Council, and the week after at the Denver summit of the Eight, we will make sure that world leaders give the future of Hong Kong the attention it deserves.

Over the coming months, the questions will abound. Will Hong Kong keep its free way of life, its civil liberties, the rule of law? Will Hong Kong soon be allowed to hold free and fair elections? What should not be in question is Britain's commitment to stand up for the values we believe in.

I have also made clear that, as long as the Joint Declaration is fully implemented, Hong Kong should be a bridge, not a barrier, between Britain and China. A stable and prosperous Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, enjoying the autonomy and political and economic freedoms promised in the Joint Declaration, would then be at the centre of a more constructive relationship with China. A relationship which acknowledged China's growing weight in the world. A relationship which reflected Britain's interests in Hong Kong and in China as a whole.

These are points which I shall make to the Chinese Foreign Minister when I see him in Hong Kong later this month.

For the transfer of sovereignty at the midnight stroke marks not the end of Britain's engagement with Hong Kong and China, but a new beginning. The essential elements of that engagement will remain much as they are now. Foremost is an abiding commitment to the people of Hong Kong, more than three and a half million of whom will continue to carry British passports.

Beyond that, we have substantial economic interests in Hong Kong and mainland China which the Government is pledged to promote: tens of billions of pounds' worth of investment in Hong Kong — our second-largest Asian market — and in China itself, where we are the largest European investor.

China also has an interest in Hong Kong's economic success. Hong Kong accounts for 20 per cent of China's GDP. It provides most of China's inward investment and is its gateway to the global economy. Hong Kong's prosperity is built on the foundations of a strong civil society and the rule of law, on freedom of information and expression, and on the recognition that political and economic freedoms are indivisible. It is in both Britain's and China's interests that Hong Kong should remain prosperous.

Britain's new Government will do all it can in the days ahead to show how seriously we take our commitment to Hong Kong's future. That is why Tony Blair has decided to fly to Hong Kong to be present at the handover. That is one demonstration of a commitment to Hong Kong which will endure not just for the rest of this century, but into the next millennium.

The author is the Foreign Secretary.

Lord's lord

JOHN MAJOR plans to make his mark in his resignation to hours his cricketing hero Sir Colin Cowdrey, 64, is to be made a peer.

It was Major who knighted Cowdrey in 1992 for his contribution to the sport. The former England captain, who played 114

Tests and scored 7,624 runs for his country, feigned ignorance of the rumours yesterday. "Extraordinary," he said. "I really don't know how these things work."

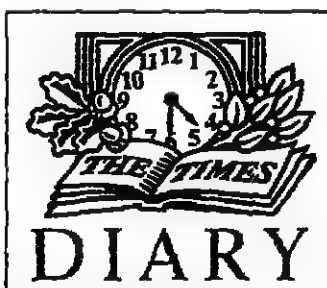
Cowdrey has known the former Prime Minister for many years, and helped to promote many of Major's sporting initiatives.

Cricket fans worldwide will rejoice at the news of his peerage, as will his wife, the late Duke of Norfolk's daughter Lady Herries of Terregles. He is the first person to be given a peerage on account of his cricketing since Sir Leerie Constantine, the West Indian all-rounder, was elevated in 1969.

The one difficulty facing Cowdrey, a former president of the MCC, is what to call himself. Lord Cowdrey of Marylebone would be ideal but Lord Hailsham has already tagged Marylebone, Canterbury and his home town of Littlehampton are firm favourites for the title.

Smoked out

PEDESTRIANS in Knightsbridge were assailed one lunchtime last week by the sight of Lord Grade.



● Around the corridors of Classic FM, where light music is the stock in trade, they have coined a name for Always, the unspeakable new West End musical about Edward and Mrs Simpson: "Wallis and Imiti."

The Tempest

YOU MIGHT have expected it at Lord's, but not at Stratford. Rain stopped the play on Wednesday evening as rain poured through a leaky roof on to the stage during the Royal Shakespeare Company's performance of *Cymbeline*.



"I got my dress wrong for the Mansion House dinner last night"

As Adrian Noble's production was reaching the interval, the heavens opened. The interval had to be extended to nearly an hour as the roof was patched up. "The stage was damp, as were changing areas backstage, but the cast struggled through until the interval," said the RSC. Umbrellas were expected at last night's performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Barred

CHERIE BLAIR has few scruples when it comes to using her political clout. As "chair" of the 1997 Bar conference, she would have approved an invitation some time ago to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, asking him to give the keynote speech in September.

After new Labour came to power, however, she decided that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, might impress the delegates more. She duly wrote to Lord Bingham, asking him whether he would mind withdrawing from the key role to become part of the question-and-answer panel instead.

Lord Bingham, a gracious man, complied readily with the request to bow out and Straw is now giving the speech. But he drew the line at becoming a panelist and is no longer attending.



EU petition: Eddie Izzard

● The European Movement is dispatching its most dramatic new catch to the Amsterdam summit next week. Eddie Izzard, the cross-dressing humorist, is planning to present a petition to Europe's leaders calling for Europe's people to have more say in the EU. "It's about mature democracies coming together to create something totally new," he explains. Chancellor Kohl is said to be looking forward to meeting him.

P-H-S



Elevation: Sir Colin Cowdrey



JUSTICE AND JUVENILES

Parliament's writ should be respected by judges

The House of Lords decision that Michael Howard acted unlawfully in setting a minimum 15-year sentence for the killers of James Bulger is more than a footnote to a former minister's career. It is the most authoritative review so far of the sentencing process for a crime which the trial judge called an "act of unparalleled evil and barbarity". The Bulger killing provoked rare horror and a period of national self-examination. It may be no help to the Bulger family, or the killers, that their case is under continual review but it is entirely appropriate that the arguments it generates should be a matter of national debate.

The House of Lords ruling marks another step in the curbing of political intervention in the administration of justice. It also signals an unfortunate haughtiness towards genuine public feeling. The intrusion of executive power into judicial decisions should be exceptional and measured. It is wrong to accord too much weight to popular feeling on sentencing when the facts of the case cannot receive the scrutiny in the courtroom that they will endure in the judge's chambers. Nevertheless, Michael Howard acted within his rights in insisting that Robert Thomson and Jon Venables serve a minimum of 15 years in prison. It is important, for the sake of public faith in the criminal justice system, that the right of politicians to intervene in the way that the former Home Secretary did is protected.

The law lords were only judging the lawfulness of the former Home Secretary's decision, not its wisdom. Their lordships ruled first that Mr Howard was wrong to set a tariff, or minimum sentence, for juveniles as inflexible as that which applies to adults. They further concluded that the former Home Secretary was wrong to take into account vigorous expressions of public opinion, such as petitions and the response to media campaigns. In neither case did they rule unanimously against him and in both cases matters of principle apply in which the sovereignty of Parliament is at question.

The capacity of the Home Secretary to set the sentence he did derives from the principle that the minister, in those cases where a life sentence is mandatory, can fix a minimum term which must be served. The purpose of his intervention is to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence. The justification for intervention is the need to maintain faith in the criminal justice system. Parliament has vested that role in the Home Secretary.

Given the scale of public disquiet after the Bulger killing and the right the Home Secretary enjoys to "have regard to broader considerations of a public character" in fixing tariffs, how can he ignore public agitation? Judges have taken public feeling into account in the increasingly tough sentences they have applied to dangerous driving offences and, as Lord Browne-Wilkinson argued, the Home Secretary is entitled to take into account expressions of public anger in a crime which will have had a profound impact on popular sentiment.

Following the compact between Parliament and people that led, despite popular opposition, to the abolition of the death penalty, the minister has a duty to consider fixing a minimum sentence that must be served. That minimum is an assurance to the public. The 1991 Criminal Justice Act makes plain that when juveniles are guilty of crimes that would merit a mandatory life sentence for an adult, and are consequently detained indefinitely "at Her Majesty's pleasure", they are also liable to have a minimum tariff fixed.

Lord Lloyd pointed out that since Parliament had explicitly created a link in 1991 between the treatment of adult and child offenders for those crimes which would lead to a mandatory life sentence for adults the Home Secretary was acting within the law. Parliament chose to give the Home Secretary these powers that he might use them to maintain confidence in the justice system, not see them circumscribed by those who administer it.

DON'T BANK ON IT

Brown is right to ensure that inflation is not too low

One of the biggest dangers of handing monetary policy to the Bank of England was always that the Governor and his committee would be overzealous in their approach to inflation. Any central bank can keep prices from rising simply by maintaining very high real interest rates; but the cost is borne in jobs and growth. So it was encouraging to see Gordon Brown's remit for the Bank's monetary policy committee, set out yesterday at the Mansion House, attempting to prevent a deflationary bias creeping into the Bank's management of the economy.

Earlier, it had looked as if Mr Brown expected the Bank to keep inflation between a range of zero to 2.5 per cent. The rational action for the committee would therefore have been to err on the side of caution and aim for, say, 1 per cent. Such a low inflation rate, if achieved, would have had a heavily dampening effect on the real economy, holding back demand, investment, job creation and growth.

The new remit makes it clear that a too-low inflation outcome will be as much a cause for concern as one that is too high. In other words, the Bank should aim at 2.5 per cent, not a lower figure. If the inflation rate is more than 1 per cent higher or lower than the target, Eddie George, the Governor, will have to write an open letter to Mr Brown explaining why this has happened, what he intends to do about it, and how long he expects inflation to remain off-target.

This "open letter" system should act as an extra incentive to the monetary policy committee to keep price rises within the range. Mr Brown accepts that there could be external factors, such as an oil price shock, that could lead to higher inflation in the

short term, and that it might not then be in the interests of the economy to take drastic, instant action to bring inflation down. In other words, this promises flexibility as well as answerability.

The Bank's policymaking will now be more transparent than ever. As well as its quarterly *Inflation Report*, it will publish the minutes of committee meetings and the votes of each member. The Governor will appear before a House of Commons Select Committee four times a year and there will be an annual debate on the conduct of monetary policy. The addition of the open letter means that the public should be even better informed about the decision-making process: that is some compensation for the reduced accountability through ministers.

There is also a merit in making the Bank answerable for today's inflation and not just some future rate. Because of the lags in monetary policy, it takes some 18 months to two years before the full effects of an interest rate change feed through to prices. The Bank, therefore, prefers to deal more in forecasts than outcomes. But each outcome is a result of monetary policy decisions taken the previous year. It is right that the Bank should explain where and how it went wrong, and how problems will be rectified.

When Mr Brown took office, his early pronouncements seemed to threaten an over-austere management of the economy. Although this certainly stemmed any market panic that might have materialised after the Labour victory, he overcompensated, if anything, for Labour's past sins. Yesterday's announcement is a promising move towards a more balanced assessment of what a modern economy really needs.

GARDEN INSPECTION

The investigation of the Opera House must be quick and clean

What does a Labour Government do about the Royal Opera House? That is not the most pressing issue facing Mr Blair, but it has the potential to be disproportionately embarrassing for a Government committed to "the people's priorities" in the distribution of lottery proceeds, as well as to improving access to publicly funded culture. Covent Garden receives a £20 million subsidy each year, and has been awarded £78 million towards its redevelopment. Many of its productions this season have been favourably reviewed. Yet its average ticket prices remain beyond the reach of opera fans on average salaries. And recent announcements suggest a management adrift without a strategy.

Its plans, for instance, to keep the Royal Opera and Ballet in ceaseless, flying Dutchman-style transit between various London halls during the two-year closure were recently described by the Arts Council chairman, Lord Gower, as "a shambles" — a curious outburst, since the Arts Council itself was responsible for monitoring them. Then Covent Garden's new chief executive, Genista McIntosh, mysteriously resigned after 18 weeks, and was instantly replaced (without any selection procedure) by the Arts Council's secretary-general, Mary Allen.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, may feel in retrospect that he was bounced into approving Ms Allen's appointment before

he had time to assess the probity of the matter. Since then he has certainly made no secret of his desire to get to the truth behind events that appear murkier than Verdi plots.

In particular, he will want to be reassured that the Opera House and Arts Council between them do not bungle the redevelopment scheme, to which so much lottery money is entrusted. Fresh in his memory will be the grotesquely mismanaged building programme for the new British Library. That costly debacle happened because at no stage in the 20-year saga could the simple question "who's in charge?" be confidently answered. If Mr Smith asks "who's in charge?" at Covent Garden today, he may be similarly confused by the volley of conflicting answers. That is an ominous warning.

But his chosen method of inquiry leaves much to be desired. Rather than investigate the matter himself, or through his departmental civil servants, he has asked the Arts Council to set up an "independent inquiry" into its own relationship with the Opera House. That does not inspire confidence.

Having taken this route, Mr Smith must at least ensure that the person who heads the Arts Council's inquiry is truly independent, and that the report is quickly delivered to the public. If Camelot's chiefs can be hauled in to account for their slice of lottery cake, the scrutiny of those disbursing and receiving lottery grants must be no less rigorous.

'Wrecking' of BBC World Service

From Mr John Tusa and others

Sir, Brenda Maddox is undoubtedly right (Media and Marketing, June 11) to say that the BBC World Service has been dismantled by the Birt restructuring of June 7 last year. The speed with which it has been carried out is, in our opinion, that of the wreckers, anxious not to be thwarted in his indefensible designs. But she is wrong to assume that it cannot be reversed.

If the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and the Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, decided between them that the damage should be put right and the component parts of the World Service be reintegrated, then they could be. The cost — on the principle that the wreckers pay — would properly be borne by the domestic BBC and valid questions would then be asked of those responsible for so disastrous and costly a policy.

The removal of English-language programme making from Bush House was decided without internal or external consultation, and without prior discussion with the two senior executives responsible (for the World Service, Bob Phillips, the deputy director-general, and Sam Younger, the managing director).

Further, the idea that the domestic BBC could produce programmes suitable for worldwide audiences has been steadily disproved over many years. Radio 4 programmes sounded parochial and irrelevant to the audience; specific requests by the World Service for material precisely tailored for a worldwide audience were either ignored by our domestic colleagues, poorly realised or simply accorded a low priority. Yet this previously trodden and discredited path is just the one down which the domestic BBC is venturing, ignoring the experience of the past.

In fact, the more that World Service devised, commissioned and made its own programmes, the better the network and the associated language programmes became and the more audiences grew.

We believe that a reversal of last year's so-called restructuring of the World Service is not only possible and desirable but a proper part of new Labour's review of its political and administrative inheritance.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TUSA
(Managing Director, BBC World Service, 1986-93),
AUSTEN KARK
(Managing Director, BBC External Broadcasting, 1985-88),
GERARD MANSELL
(Managing Director, BBC External Broadcasting, 1972-1981),
As from: 21 Christchurch Hill, NW3, June 11.

Panorama's time-slot

From Mr Mark Damazer

Sir, Sir Paul Fox (letter, June 10) suggests that moving *Panorama's* start time to 10pm "diminishes the programme and the BBC". On the contrary, the move is designed to strengthen both *Panorama* and BBC's Monday night line-up overall. Other BBC factual programmes have performed strongly when they have moved to 10pm and we have every reason to believe that *Panorama*, too, will do so.

Sir Paul suggests that no one can remember recent *Panoramas* other than the interview with the Princess of Wales in November 1995. In fact, the *Panorama* team has been responsible for a string of high-quality programmes in the last two years — not least those on Child B and the closure of The Ridings School.

The move is a positive development for what is, quite rightly, the most influential and widely respected current-affairs programme on television, and the Governors endorsed the change on this basis.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DAMAZER
(Head of Weekly Programmes, BBC News),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12, June 11.

Press freedom

From Mr Howard Gander

Sir, The decision of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, to restrict journalists at his press conference to questions that conformed to the previously fixed programme (report, June 7), with the implied threat of possible banishment if they did not do as they were told, strikes chill to the heart.

The further statement by the press officer: "I look forward to seeing what you all write tomorrow," fills me with foreboding.

One way to counter this threat to the freedom of the press is for future press conferences to be devoid of any journalist from a reputable paper or TV news team.

Alternatively, Lord Irvine could be instructed by the Prime Minister to "open up the Lord Chancellor's Department to the people", to coin a phrase, and allow free questioning.

If Mr Blair ignores such outrageous behaviour and does nothing, then surely he will be the ultimate loser.

Yours sincerely,
H. C. W. GANDER,
37 Ilges Lane,
Cholsey, Oxfordshire,
June 7.

Politics, science and the Irish famine

From Mr John B. McMullan

Sir, The assertion by Dr R. N. Strange (letter, June 5) that the real cause of the Irish potato famine was the fungus *Phytophthora infestans* is misguided. The fungus was undoubtedly the cause of the failure of the potato, but not necessarily of the famine.

According to Robert Key (Ireland, A History, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1980) the potato crop in the summer of 1845 was as badly affected in England, but the blight caused no famine there. The famine in Ireland was largely due to British government policy.

Instrumental in formulating policy was a civil servant, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury. Trevelyan was concerned about the economic effects if other cheap food was imported into Ireland. He actually rejected a cargo of Indian corn on its way to Ireland and at the time wrote:

The only way to prevent people from becoming habitually dependent on government is to bring operations to a close. Whatever may be done hereafter, these things should be stopped now, or you run the risk of paralyzing all private enterprise and having this country [Ireland] on you for an indefinite number of years.

He reprimanded some local relief officers in Cork who, against orders, had made Indian corn available for sale as it undermined the market.

The policy was summed up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Charles Wood: "It is not the intention at all to import food for the use of the people of Ireland."

It is thus the case that the famine was caused by British government policy. It is only just, albeit 150 years later, that Tony Blair acknowledges the ineptitude and inhumanity of that policy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. McMULLAN,
137 Belfast Road,
Sainfield, Co Down,
June 6.

Sinn Fein policy

From Mr Harry Barnes, MP for Derbyshire North East (Labour)

Sir, Sinn Fein's 1986 decision to allow a victorious candidate to take his seat in the Irish Parliament — Caoimhghin O Caoilain being the first to be elected last weekend (report, June 9) — creates an interesting contradiction in Sinn Fein policy.

Their refusal to take the oath at Westminster (perhaps in the qualified manner perfected by Tony Benn and others), on the grounds that this would recognise British jurisdiction over Ireland and the reality of partition, contrasts with their recognition of the Dail. This is the so-called "Free State" Parliament which is itself a product of partition and whose vast majority endorses the consent principle — that Northern Ireland is the unit that determines its own future.

Sinn Fein must make its mind up. If it accepts so-called "partitionist" structures in the Irish Republic, why should it not do the same in Britain — to the benefit of its otherwise unrepresented electors? In the meantime, there is no reason why another single drop of blood should be shed.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY BARNES,
House of Commons,
June 11.

Anti-European groups

From the Leader of the UK Independence Party

Sir, Contrary to your report today, I am not opposed to my party having discussions with like-minded anti-EU groups.

The point is that a national umbrella organisation linking these groups already exists. It is called the Anti-Maastricht Alliance, is chaired by Lord Stoddart of Swindon and has as its secretary Sir Robin Williams.

The UK Independence Party has been a member of this body from the very beginning and will continue to work through it. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.

My party's national executive has every confidence in the AMA and its distinguished officers.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED,
Leader,
UK Independence Party,
80 Regent Street, W1,
June 6.

Pole position

From Colonel M. C. Spence (ret'd)

Sir, Good luck to Mr Ashley Sims and his upside-down maps (letter, June 9), although the original idea does not seem to have sustained its early success. Mr al Sharif al Idri from North Africa produced an upside-down map of the world for King Roger II of Sicily during the 12th century which was highly regarded at the time.

North was at the bottom of the map in accordance with ancient, even then, Egyptian tradition based on the flow of the Nile.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. SPENCE,
c/o The British Club,
PO Box 26401, Bahrain,
June 10.

From Professor Emeritus P. B. Felgett, FRS

Sir, Dr Strange is of course correct that the primary cause of the Irish potato famine was the susceptibility of the strains of potatoes grown then, as now, to the potato-blight fungus.

The cause of this universal susceptibility was the narrow genetic base of the cultivars, all of which had been bred from a few tubers collected from regions of South America where blight is not endemic and therefore where resistance to this fungus conveys no selective advantage.

Yet narrowing of the genetic base of all our vegetables is currently being imposed on us by national and EU legislation, and I am amazed that neither politicians nor media seem aware of the huge dangers this involves.

It is now illegal either to buy or to market vegetable seeds that have not been accepted and registered as "distinct, uniform and stable", according to EU regulations: in other words, having a narrow genetic base. More over registration is costly and it confers no competitive advantage, so the number of cultivars is being eroded and many old and well-tried favourites are being lost.

The legislation could hardly be more inimical to genetic diversity if it had been devised for this purpose. Moreover it is an unjustifiable infringement of the civil liberty of a willing vendor to sell, and a willing purchaser to buy, a harmless object. Let there be all means be national and EU-registered varieties of seeds, but let the purchaser have the choice of whether to buy these or some other variety of his choice. Otherwise we may face a famine not confined to potatoes.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FELLEGETT,
Little Brighton,
St Kew Highway,
Bodmin, Cornwall,
June 5.

Tory grass roots

From Councillor John Whelan

Sir, As appears to be the case in the North West (Mr Ronald M. Bell's letter, June 10), rumours of the impending death of the Leeds West Conservative Association have been exaggerated.

Far from having fewer than 20 members, as was indicated in the bar chart which you carried on June 6, there are over 200. During the general election campaign, in which I was the Conservative candidate, new recruits ranging in age from students to grandparents joined the party, delivered literature, canvassed and displayed posters.

Leeds West also raised all the money to pay for the campaign exclusively from fundraising and its own members' pockets, unlike the Labour Party which is mostly centrally financed.

If that is "virtually defunct" (Mr Pinto-Duschinsky's phrase in the adjoining article) then Leeds West must have been the mouse that roared.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHELAN,
Leeds West Conservative Association,
Farfield House,
Theaker Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
June 10.

Spread of Europhobia

From Mr George Racz

Sir, Euromania/Europhobia is a minor illness affecting some politicians; Euroscepticism/Europhobia is a major epidemic which has spread from Britain to all parts of the Community.

The free movement of goods in a single market was a fundamental principle of the EEC, EC and the EU. Yet France has persistently refused to comply, and the latest incident (report, "European borders blocked by lorry drivers", June 10) proves once again that the French Government is unable or unwilling to prevent international chaos caused by French haulters. Neither can Brussels.

The foundation of the EU is badly flawed and the edifice built on it is bound, sooner or later, to collapse. The sooner the better, in my view.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE RACZ,
7 Wellington House,
Eton Road, NW3,
June 10.

Watching the clock

From Mr Robin W. Cleal

Sir, Mr Tony Fenlon's lateral solution of using his method of timing his daily workouts to decide the millennium date debate (letter, June 7) does, of course, amuse us, and so is well worthwhile.

Reality, however, demands that we remember that Mr Fenlon's keep-fit machine tells him which minute he has completed. Our Anno Domini system tells us which year we are living through.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. CLEAL,
Watchfield,
Hartgrove,
Shaftesbury, Dorset,
June 8.

Measures to cut motor traffic

From Dr J. M. Wober

Sir, The long-term reduction in the number of deaths and major injuries on the roads combined with an increase in minor injuries (report, June 6) point to useful future policy.

Motor traffic in towns is increasingly beset with obstacles whose intention, and possibly effects are negative. Interwoven with the maze of bumps and chicanes are erratic strands of busway and cycle path (I write as a long-term cyclist) whose combined effects make progress for all more problematic. In what is left of the countryside car drivers are made to fear that their mobility will be hampered by heavier taxes and other blanket measures.

Three measures, if they were combined, might improve matters: a ceiling on the number of vehicle licences in circulation (with around 22 million households in the UK there are approximately 26 million vehicle licences — this number could be set as a ceiling, or even gradually reduced); the removal of some of the obstacles that anger urban drivers; and the testing or retesting of older drivers (I write as an over-60) and all new ones for the ability to negotiate narrow spaces.

Yours sincerely,
MALLORY WOBER,
Flat C, 17 Lancaster Grove, NW3,
June 5.

From Mr G. D. Clarke

Sir, Mr John Coleman suggests in his letter today that a card be issued to motorists to enable them to travel at half fare on buses and trains.

Who does he suggest should pay the full fare? Those like me who have never had a car and cycled to work daily for 40 years? I think we have already done our bit.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. CLARKE,
31 Crutchfield Lane,
Walton on Thames, Surrey,
June 5.

BA's ethnic route

From Mr Robert Sandall

Sir, Now that British Airways have chosen to adorn their fleet of aircraft with exotically painted tailfins (report, photograph and leading article, June 11) should we expect flight crews, in the spirit of things, to follow suit?

Perhaps grass skirts on flights to Hawaii, or perhaps ten-gallon hats and leather chaps to Texas? And as for flights to Papua New Guinea a simple G-string would not be out of place.

It could give a whole new meaning to in-flight entertainment.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SANDALL,
The Coach House,
99 Hazelbourne Road, SW12,
June 11.

From Ms Brenda Khanfer

Sir, Doesn't the head of British Airways realise that the majority of people, both British and other nationalities, who fly with BA do so because it is a British air carrier and instils a feeling of confidence, reliability and customer service? How can one identify with a plane that appears to have a piece of Afro/Asian fabric on its tail?

I am a recent visitor to one of these continents and have experienced more than one life-threatening relief. You cannot imagine my sheer relief at seeing the BA plane with its familiar flag waiting on the runway to bring me home.

Some quick action is needed before the millions are spent on this ridiculous facade!

Yours faithfully,
BRENDA KHANFER
(Director),
Petra Associates (Marketing and Promotion Consultants),
Old Applecroft Farm,
Great Henny, Sudbury, Suffolk,
June 10.

Sales patter

From Mr Terry Sadler

Sir, I find a sales assistant's endorsement of my purchase with "Good choice" (letter, June 10) almost acceptable compared with the increasingly used and totally meaningless phrase "There you go" following the receipt of virtually anything.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY SADLER,
1 Windsor Drive,
West Wittering, West Sussex,
June 10.

Bucket and chuck it

From Mr Alec Gallagher

Sir, I was appalled to read in today's report about the occupancy of Rockall by members of an organisation called Greenpeace that the lavatory facilities involve the pollution of the ocean with raw sewage ("bucket and chuck it", as the procedure was memorably described).

Isn't there someone prepared to protest against this sort of environmentally unfriendly behaviour?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. GALLAGHER,
4 Mavis Court,
4 Raven Close, Colindale, NW9,
June 12.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997

Top three
forecast
to fail
EMU test

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

EUROPEAN UNION hopes for the smooth launch of a single currency suffered another setback yesterday when the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicted that the three largest prospective members of EMU would all fail to meet the Maastricht criteria.

The OECD's latest *Economic Outlook* forecasts that Germany, France and Italy will all run budget deficits of 3.2 per cent this year, above the Maastricht requirement of a deficit of 3 per cent or less.

Germany and Italy, the report also predicted, would fail to meet the Maastricht criteria for the size of overall government debt. But the OECD rejects a delay in the start date for EMU, claiming that it would not provide a "satisfactory solution" to the single currency difficulties and could cause economic difficulties across Europe.

The European Commission, which next spring will officially determine if countries have fulfilled the Maastricht criteria, refused to comment on the OECD figures. But there was renewed political optimism across Europe yesterday that the EMU project is back on track. Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, claimed that progress had been made towards persuading France to ratify the stability pact at the Amsterdam summit next week.

French and German ministers are due to meet today, with both sides suggesting that they have laid the ground

rules for including a reference to employment in the stability pact. The Bundesbank also insisted yesterday that talks to resolve the row with the German Government over gold revaluation were proceeding well and it hoped for a compromise plan soon.

The markets largely ignored the OECD report, concluding that the apparent political breakthrough had put a broad EMU back on course.

The OECD report gave warning that a delay to EMU could lead to rising interest rates and exchange rates pressure, which would lead to a "deterioration" in the economic situation across Europe. It adds that a delay would also increase the danger that some countries would bring to a halt labour market and budget reform programmes.

The OECD argues that delay would be unnecessary as "fiscal consolidation is on track and any failures to meet the Maastricht criteria reflect adverse cyclical circumstances". Stephen Potter, chief economist at the OECD, added that from an economic point of view it would be "anomalous" to exclude a few countries on the basis of a few decimal points.

The OECD also forecast that the overall budget deficits in France and Germany would fall below the target measure next year, although Italy's is set to increase to 3.8 per cent. All the other members of the European Union, excluding Greece, are forecast to meet the budget deficit criteria this year.



Eddie George, who spoke at Mansion House last night, could be called to account if inflation exceeds its target

Headline inflation makes
unexpected jump to 2.6%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HEADLINE inflation unexpectedly jumped from 2.4 per cent to 2.6 per cent last month. But the Government's preferred measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage costs, was unchanged at 2.5 per cent.

Gordon Brown revealed yesterday that the Bank of England will be required to use this measure of inflation to hit a target figure of exactly 2.5 per cent. Eddie George, the Governor, will be also expected to explain publicly the reasons for missing the target by 1 per cent either side of this figure.

The markets were uncon-

cerned by the jump in inflation with the FTSE 100 climbing 32.6 points to a record high of 4,757.4, on the back of more gains on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average was at a high of 7,652.0 after a rise of 76.19 points at midday. Sterling's trade-weighted index also closed up 0.3 points at 99.6.

The Office for National Statistics blamed the increase in headline inflation on the annual comparison with May last year when mortgage rates were cut. Alcoholic drinks prices also rose but there were falls in the prices of household goods and motor costs.

But economists gave warn-

ing that the high level of service sector inflation threatened the overall inflation target. Service sector prices rose by 3.3 per cent for the fourth consecutive month.

David Bloom, UK economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "We've got strong growth in services, bringing a strong threat of inflation." Mr Bloom added that huge falls in the price of seasonal foods, which declined by 13.3 per cent year-on-year, were also flattening the inflation figures. He predicted that the Bank would need to lift rates by a further half point to 7 per cent by the year end unless the Budget included substantial tax rises.

Ruling
hits tax
avoidance
schemes

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

A HOUSE of Lords ruling may crush many tax avoidance schemes, bringing in billions of extra revenue for the Treasury.

In a majority ruling yesterday, the Law Lords decided in the *McGuckian* case that a scheme set up with the purpose of avoiding tax could not be used for that purpose.

The Lords said that whether tax should be paid depended on the meaning of the tax laws, rather than the strict letter of the law. In the ruling Lord Cooke said that it was not necessary to interpret the relevant taxing position in the traditional literal way and that it should be read in terms of its underlying purpose of the legislation.

According to Maurice Perry-Wingfield, tax partner at Deloitte & Touche, the accountants, this means that the court will be able to throw out many more tax avoidance schemes because they are breaching the spirit of the law. It means that months of work by tax experts finding loopholes in the legislation may be wasted because the courts can say that was not what the legislation intended.

John Whiting, tax partner at Price Waterhouse, the accountants, said the case was a significant move in a trend by the courts to move away from literal interpretation of tax law.

The Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise are studying the ruling to see how it will affect their tax collection.

However, it backs the move, started by Kenneth Clarke in the last Budget, to crack down on corporate tax avoidance schemes in what he called "spend-to-save".

Accountants are concerned that the ruling will increase the uncertainty surrounding self-assessment. Taxpayers could face difficulties in submitting returns because they will be unaware of the full implication of tax legislation.

BUSINESS
TODAYSTOCK MARKET
INDICES

FTSE 100	4757.4	(+32.6)
Yield	2.45%	
FTSE All share	2252.99	(+15.14)
Nikkei	20564.46	(+274.58)
New York		
Dow Jones	7647.81	(+71.78)
S&P Composite	877.06	(+7.40)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	98 1/8%	(97 1/8%)
Yield	5.76%	(5.53%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	114 1/4%	(113 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.8366	(1.8365)
London		
DM	1.6349	(1.6371)
DM	2.8184	(2.8071)
FF	5.5124	(5.4525)
Sfr	2.3396	(2.3516)
Yen	113.87	(111.30)
S index	99.6	(99.3)

DOLLAR

London	1.7248	(1.7163)
DM	5.8200	(5.8065)
FF	1.4410	(1.4360)
Yen	113.87	(111.30)
S index	105.4	(101.6)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	817.00	(818.10)
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GOLD

London close	8342.55	(8344.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Hydro hopes

Scottish Hydro-Electric believes it is probably safe from takeover because of the Government's golden share in the company, which was likely to be cast against a hostile bid.

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Matthey deal

Johnson Matthey shares rose 13 per cent on news of a licensing agreement with Kyocera of Japan, which offset the impact of a disappointing 6 per cent rise in annual profits.

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Greater
share for
Norwich
membersBY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE
CORRESPONDENT

DEMAND for shares from Norwich Union members has been so great that the insurer is to increase the number of additional shares for members by 50 per cent.

The flotation on Monday is believed to be more than six times oversubscribed.

The extra shares available to members has been achieved by clawing back £400 million worth of stock originally earmarked for institutions and non-members.

When the retail offer closed on Tuesday investors queued outside the offices of Lloyds Registrars in Southwark, London, to make last-minute applications.

Some institutions are unhappy with yesterday's announcement that the members' offer had been increased from £800 million worth of shares to £1.2 billion. One said: "This makes the whole book-building exercise much more competitive."

The price of the public offer is expected to be in the range of 240p to 290p per share. The members' offer price will be at a 25p per share discount to the public offer price and Norwich Union said it was expected to be in the range of 215p to 265p.

Dealings begin on Monday morning.

Arsenal chief to
fight fee demand

BY JASON NISSE

DAVID DEIN, the deputy chairman of Arsenal Football Club, said yesterday he would vigorously oppose a demand by Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, for £148,000 of fees that the bank says are due on Mr Dein's secret £4.35 million sale of a stake in Arsenal last year.

Mr Dein admits he asked Henry Ansbacher to attempt to sell a 14 per cent stake in the unnamed Premiership club last year, owned by a number of shareholders, including Mr Dein and Danny Fiszman, a fellow Arsenal director.

Ansbacher was involved in talks with a number of parties, including Ladbroke, the betting and hotels group, about purchasing the holding.

However, in June last year Mr Dein took the stake off the market and privately sold 3,000 shares to Mr Fiszman for £1,480 a share, pocketing £4.35 million. This deal was not disclosed until it appeared in the High Court this week, in which Ansbacher is claiming commission for the sale.

Mr Dein said yesterday he would not pay Ansbacher. "They played no role whatsoever in the final deal and yet they are claiming a fee," he said yesterday.

Roger Devlin, the director at Ansbacher who worked on the deal, is to back up Mr Dein if the case comes to court. He has left the bank since the deal and is now the development director of Hilton Hotels, part of Ladbroke.

Speculation was rife last year about Arsenal directors testing the water before the club's flotation. Its shares more than doubled during the year, peaking at more than £2,000 each.

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Inspirations
in talks on
takeover

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

INSPIRATIONS, the tour operator run by Vic Fatah, yesterday disclosed that it is in talks with a potential buyer.

Carlson, the US travel group, is thought the most likely bidder. It was widely reported last year to be eyeing the 97 AT Mays travel agencies owned by Inspirations.

The company said that a bid, which has been discussed for some months, would probably be at less than the current share price. Its shares have risen from below 70p to 80p in the past few days.

Inspirations has a turbulent past. In December it had to delay its results three times as it sought to settle a dispute with British Airways about Caledonian Airways, which the travel company bought from BA two years ago. In the end, BA agreed to pay £6 million to end the dispute about late delivery of aircraft, which led to flight delays for Caledonian. The delay's cost was put at £17 million and the company reported a pre-tax loss of £13.2 million in the year to September 30.

Inspirations has consistently undercut many trade rivals.

Power market to
start on schedule

BY OLIVER AUGUST

COMPETITION in the electricity sector will begin on time but consumers cannot expect any significant price reductions in the immediate future, John Battle, the Energy Minister, said yesterday.

Discussions over the problems dogging the introduction of competition, scheduled for April 1, 1998, dominated yesterday's summit meeting between the minister and the heads of the regional electricity companies.

Mr Battle said: "I am worried about the computer system. It is the most complicated

computer system in the Western world." To ensure that the problem will not derail the introduction of competition, he has ended the hands-off approach of the last Government and assumed personal responsibility for the project.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, who was also at the meeting, said: "We shall not see the (price) reductions in the electricity sector that we have seen in gas. There just isn't the scope for that."

Mr Battle added: "We have some tremendous challenges to meet. We have identified the issues that have to be addressed. We are still on track to meet the deadline set out."

"We want to see the introduction of competition working and we want to see it working properly in a robust and timely manner."

Mr Battle declined to say by how much prices could fall after the start of competition. He was uncertain as to whether a cut as low as 5 per cent could be achieved.

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Threat to UK jobs in Electrolux shake-up

BY ADAM JONES

THOUSANDS of UK jobs are at risk in a massive restructuring at Electrolux, the household appliances manufacturer. Electrolux announced yesterday that it is to cut 12,000 staff from its global workforce of 105,000. About 25 of its 150 plants will be closed, as well as 50 warehouses.

The Swedish company has not

decided exactly where the cuts will be made, but Michael Treschow, chief executive since April, said yesterday: "The closures will mainly concern Europe and North America."

Electrolux employs about 5,000 people in the UK. Some 2,000 are employed in County Durham, at a cooker factory and refrigerator plant in Spennymoor, and at a Flynn lawnmower factory, marketing office

and spare parts operation in Newton Aycliffe.

About 600 are employed in Luton, Bedfordshire, at its national headquarters and at a vacuum cleaner plant. Sales and marketing staff are spread across the country.

The cuts and closures will be made over two years. The SKr2.5 billion (£197 million) cost will be charged against operating income in the second quarter

of 1997, with the aim of recouping the sum in savings within two years.

Electrolux said the restructuring is necessary to achieve its long-term financial goals of an operating margin of 6.5 to 7 per cent, and a return on equity of 15 per cent.

In the first quarter of this year, profit fell 14 per cent to SKr777 million on weak European demand for household appliances.

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TV soccer success is forecast

By Jason Nisse

SHOWING A Premiership football match on pay-per-view television would generate more than £30 million for a top game, a survey published yesterday indicates.

Continental Research, questioning more than 400 adults last weekend, found that more than 40 per cent would pay to watch sports events on television.

It found that if viewers were asked to pay £10 for a top Premiership match, 3.23 million homes would sign up, generating £32.3 million in revenue. This is five times the biggest audience yet for pay-per-view television in the UK. At £15 a game, about two million homes would pay, bringing in £31.4 million a match.

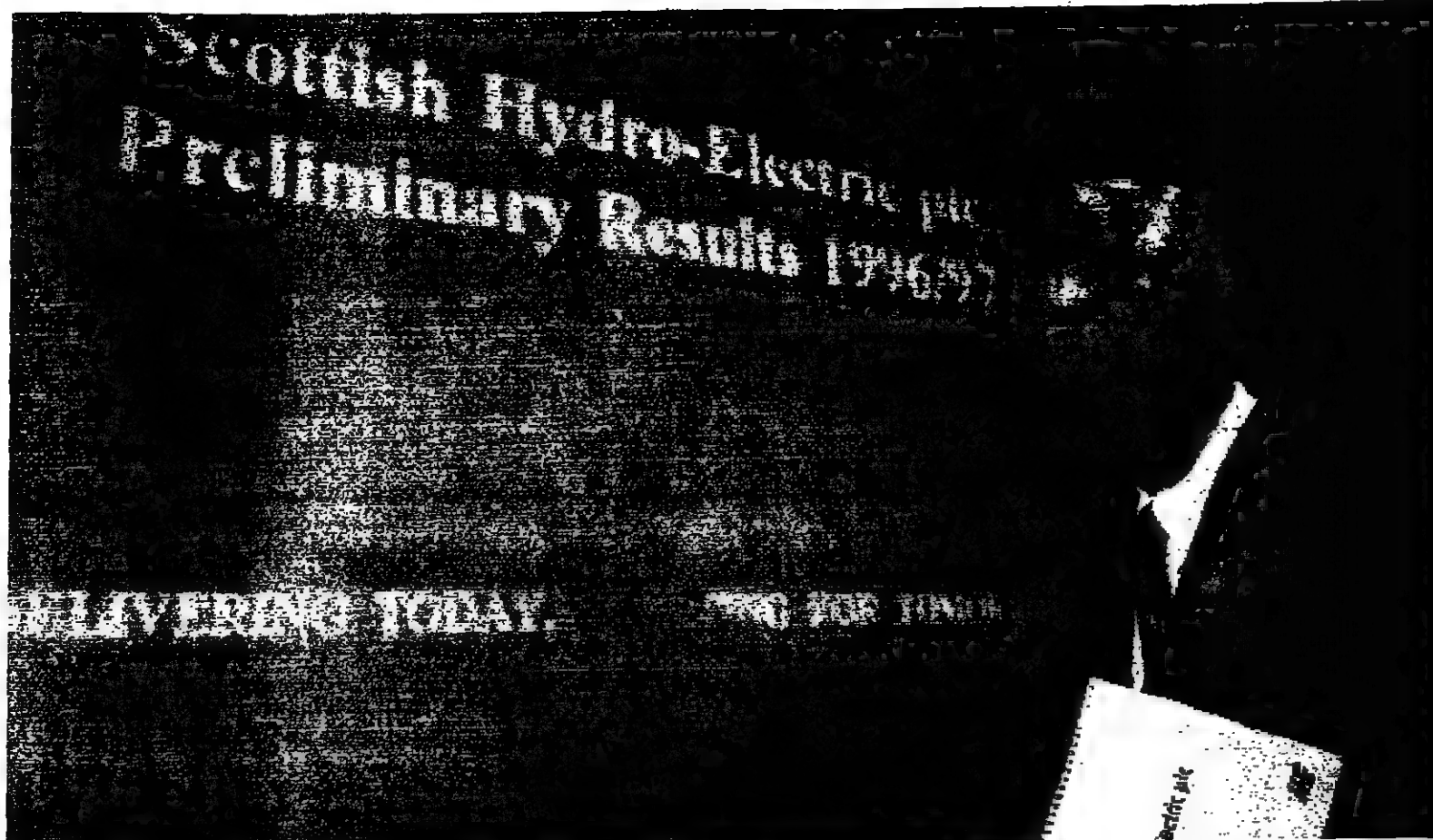
The 20 teams in the Premier League are looking closely at pay-per-view, with tests of it expected this season and a full pay-per-view programme expected for the 1999/2000 season. It is expected that clubs would be able to keep more than half the revenue.

The survey found that, at £10 a time, 3.2 million homes would pay for a top boxing match, 1.7 million for a golf tournament and 1.3 million for a motor racing grand prix.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Rate	Rate
Australia \$	2.27	2.10
Austria Sch	13.72	13.17
Belgium Fr	91.02	86.35
Canada \$	2.27	2.10
Cyprus Cyp£	0.878	0.811
Denmark Kr	11.25	10.42
Finland Mk	6.95	6.25
France Fr	9.92	9.23
Germany Dr	5.71	5.14
Greece Dr	4.71	4.34
Hong Kong \$	13.28	12.25
Ireland £	1.13	1.04
Israel Sh	0.89	0.84
Italy Lit	2028	2707
Japan Yen	200.30	183.80
Malta £	0.682	0.636
Netherlands Gld	3.242	3.084
New Zealand \$	2.27	2.10
Norway Kr	12.31	11.43
Portugal Esc	206.00	275.00
S Africa Rd	8.00	7.11
Spain Ptas	206.00	275.00
Sweden Kr	13.45	12.43
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.85
Turkey Lira	248296	226739
USA \$	1.721	1.587

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. General rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Not hiding: Roger Young, chief executive, said he would be surprised if anyone wanted to change Scottish Hydro-Electric's golden share

Scottish Hydro relies on security of golden share

By Oliver August

SCOTTISH Hydro-Electric is unlikely to fall victim to the wave of takeovers in the electricity sector because the Government will almost definitely hold on to its golden share, according to the company's finance director.

John Gray said: "The golden share is probably safer with Labour than it was with the Tories. It is held by the Secretary of State for Scotland

and it is doubtful he would want to sell one of Scotland's major assets."

Mr Gray said the board would consider bids on their merits but so far this situation had not arisen. Roger Young, chief executive, said: "We certainly don't want to hide behind the golden share. But I would be surprised if anyone would want to change the share. There have been no suggestions from Labour to change it."

Scottish Hydro became the

target of bid speculation this week when the Energy Group announced it is considering a takeover by PacifiCorp, the US utility. Scottish Hydro's share price jumped from 400p to 421p on Wednesday and to 425p yesterday.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £205.4 million, up from £195 million, in the year to March 31. Earnings per share increased to 42.4p from 38.7p. A final dividend of 12.36p will be paid on August

19, lifting the full-year dividend to 17.64p (15.76p).

The company indicated that dividend cover could fall to around two times from current levels of 2.38 times. Mr Young said: "I think we've indicated that we would go down towards two. We wouldn't want to go below that in the foreseeable future."

To fund investments, Mr Young said, the company would be "happy to see interest cover drop towards four

times and that would be gearing in the 80 to 90 per cent range". Current investment commitments are expected to take gearing to 65 per cent from present levels of 52.1 per cent by 1999. Mr Young said projects under consideration were all in electricity generation, including combined heat and power plants.

He said that dry weather during the year had cost the company about £6 million in low output from its hydro-electric generators which had to be topped up by burning coal. But last year was better than the previous, extremely dry, 12 months, he said. It is too early to tell whether the current year will be hit by dry weather.

The company hopes to maintain its market share in Scotland. It said it was not pursuing profit rather than market share, and would not enter unprofitable parts of the market.

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PacifiCorp lines up telecoms buyer

PACIFICORP, the US utility, says it has a buyer ready to pay £1 billion for its telecoms operations, a deal it needs to complete in order to pay for The Energy Group (Jason Nisse writes).

Advisers to PacifiCorp expect an offer for Energy — owner of the UK's biggest electricity dis-

tributor, Eastern, and the world's largest coalminer, Peabody — can be launched today or on Monday.

Frederick Buckman, PacifiCorp's chief executive, is understood to have agreed final terms with Derek Bonham, Energy's executive chairman, and these were approved at a

PacifiCorp board meeting in Oregon, on Wednesday.

The US group will pay 69p a share for Energy, whose shares rose just 6½p yesterday to 648p, valuing the UK company at £3.6 billion. It will also take on more than £15 billion of debt on Energy's balance sheet.

US analysts have questioned PacifiCorp's ability to pay for the deal, as it already has over £3 billion of debts. However, the sale of the group's 11 local telecoms franchises in the American West for around £1 billion should ease the pressure. PacifiCorp would not name the buyer.

Ex-BCCI employees win right to sue

By Jon Ashworth

THOUSANDS of former employees of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have won the right to sue for compensation over the stigma of their links with the failed bank.

The House of Lords found unanimously in favour of two former employees, who claim their association with BCCI has left them at a serious disadvantage in finding new jobs.

Raihan Mahmud and Kaiser Malik, who held senior posts in London, intend to press on with a claim for damages against Deloitte & Touche, the BCCI liquidator. Lorinda Peasland, a solicitor with Manches & Co, which

represents the pair, said: "We think a number of employees will bring cases based on this judgment. It could apply to any institution, not just the financial sector, but it has to be conducted that is calculated or likely to cause damage to an employee's prospects."

The next stage of the case could take several months to come to court.

The BCCI Campaign Committee, which represents former employees, said: "These people suffered a double blow with the closure of the bank. They not only lost their savings and their jobs, but have also been stigmatised for simply being employees."

SFA expels broker firm and partners

A BIRMINGHAM firm of stockbrokers and three of its partners have been expelled from City registers for a series of serious rule breaches.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, said yesterday that Griffiths and Lamb had been expelled for concealing its true financial position, and its partners removed from registers. They were Ivan Griffiths, an equity partner and the senior partner; John Hallworth, an equity partner in charge of corporate finance; and Richard Parfitt, a salaried partner, who was the compliance and admission officer. The three admitted they "failed to observe high standards of integrity".

Schools Net warning for BT

DON CRUICKSHANK, Director-General of Telecommunications, accused British Telecom yesterday of foot-dragging on the schools initiative and said he would not approve a BT proposal that seems to discriminate against rival Internet service providers (Eric Reguly writes).

Mr Cruickshank has sent four letters to Sir Peter

Bonfield, BT's chief executive, this year asking for proposals on how the company would connect schools to the Internet. In January, the cable companies agreed to provide connections for £1 per pupil per year.

"We didn't get anything from BT until May 23," Mr Cruickshank said. He was anxious to review BT's propos-

als as soon as possible in the hope that schools would be wired in time for the autumn term. It now seems highly unlikely that the tentative deadline will be met.

BT said it was surprised by Mr Cruickshank's remarks. A spokeswoman said BT and Ofcom had, in fact, held several meetings before May on the schools initiative.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Paragon pays £36m for UK mortgages

THE Paragon Group has acquired the UK mortgage portfolio of Société Générale, the European investment bank, for £36 million cash. The SocGen mortgage portfolio holds 710 "high quality" seasoned loan accounts secured by first mortgages on residential property. Provided that certain conditions are met the deal will be completed on June 30.

The latest mortgage portfolio acquisition by Paragon is the third such purchase in the past two years. The company said: "It represents a continuation of the group's policy of making optimum use of its cost-effective loan administration capabilities to supplement the organic growth being achieved through its own new lending activities." Paragon, a financial services company, said that it will take over responsibility for servicing the SocGen portfolio and that the home loans would be funded through the UK securitisation market. The company added that it had been "an acknowledged leader" in the specialist securitisation market for more than ten years.

Airports take flight

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading for Mediterranean hotspots helped to boost passenger numbers at leading airports last month. BAA's seven UK airports handled a total of 8.9 million passengers in May 1997, up 8.9 per cent on last time. The upturn in package holiday numbers was revealed in the 16.6 per cent increase in the European charter market last month. The May figures meant Gatwick handled 25 million passengers for the 12 months to the end of May, the first time it has reached this figure in a year-long period.

Lloyd's inquiry rejected

THE GOVERNMENT has ruled out the prospect of an inquiry into Lloyd's of London. The decision, announced in response to a written Parliamentary question, is a blow to those Lloyd's names who allege that they were fraudulently recruited to the insurance market. The prospect of an inquiry into Lloyd's was mooted some years ago, but the former Conservative Government declined to take action until Lloyd's had completed its restructuring plans. Alleged fraudulent recruitment has been the subject of court action in America.

Write-offs hit Shelton

MARTIN SHELTON GROUP, the business gifts specialist, suffered a 38 per cent fall in profits in the year to March 31 after closure costs and stock write-offs dragged down an otherwise steady trading performance. Although turnover increased to £6.95 million, from £6.79 million, extra costs cut pre-tax profits to £429,000 (£699,000) and earnings per share to 5.39p (9.63p). The company said that inquiries for its gifts are currently running at record levels and that trading is strong. A second interim dividend of 3p is due on June 30.

Second Chinese listing

THE London Stock Exchange yesterday secured the listing of a second Chinese company, Jiangxi Copper, which is one of China's largest copper producers, has been brought to the market by Merrill Lynch International. The issue raised more than £132 million. The Chinese listings, of which more are expected, are the result of a joint initiative by the Stock Exchange, the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, and the Treasury.

Electrical group thrives

DEWHURST, the electrical components company, lifted pre-tax profits to £615,000 (£553,000) in the first half to March 31, after continuing improvements from all parts of the company. Growth at its lifts division was modest, suffering from fierce pressures on prices, but this was offset by a strong performance from its Thames Valley Controls subsidiary. (It is expected to return profits of £900,000 (£780,000) by the year end. Earnings were 3.45p (3.15p) a share, and an interim dividend of 0.96p (0.93p) is due on September 1.

Cedardata shares up

SHARES of Cedardata, the computer software and services company, yesterday picked up from a record low as it said that it was making headway in its cost-cutting programme without losing revenue growth. Profits plunged from £4.38 million to £1.39 million in the year to March 31, but were still some £500,000 better than the City had been expecting. The shares increased 5p to 90p. Earnings were 3.6p a share (9.5p) and a final dividend of 0.7p is payable on July 18, making a total 2.27p (4p).

WPP expansion

WPP, the advertising group run by Martin Sorrell, has expanded further into Argentina. It has bought out the partner in its joint venture company run by Ogilvie Group for £3.25 million. The company, which two weeks ago bought into rival CIA Group in Britain for £13.7 million, will pay £2.44 million up front and the rest in three years. The subsidiary, which has assets of £3.79 million, is valued at £11 million through the deal. WPP's shares gained 5½p to 258p.

Graseby wins NHS deal

GRASEBY, the electronic instruments company, has won a £2 million contract to supply infusion devices to the United Leeds Hospital NHS Trust — its most valuable partnership deal to date. The initial order, which starts in the spring, is valued at £500,000 and the entire deal will last seven years. The deal comes as part of a £90 million plan to make Leeds General Infirmary into the largest critical care units in Europe. Graseby shares were unchanged, at 154½p.

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Hard lines on Davies

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Eddie George was on home territory last night as he addressed the assembled bankers and merchants of the City at Mansion House. It was the lounge-suited Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, who was the visitor. So the Governor of the Bank of England greeted him graciously, before taking the opportunity to warn Mr Brown that he does not have all the answers when it comes to running the banking business.

Mr George had the confidence of knowing he was among friends, many of whom had been appalled at the treatment meted out to the Governor in the early, gung-ho days of the new Government. But if there ever had been an intention, as mysterious unnamed sources close to Downing Street, had intimated, of pushing Eddie back to an early retirement in leafy Dulwich, then the Governor has thwarted them.

But the underlying message in his speech last night was that he is not entirely happy with the changes Mr Brown has wrought, and that, with a little less haste and a little more consultation, a better reorganisation of the Bank, and particularly City regulation, might have been the result.

Mr Brown's latest bright idea, demanding that the Governor should write a hundred lines if the Bank fails to keep inflation at the government-approved level, causes him little difficulty. It would be an unimaginative Gov-

ernor who could not find reasons to put the blame for failure anywhere other than on the shoulders of an independent Bank of England and its monetary policy committee. And Mr George, understandably, seized the opportunity to boast of the successful run the economy has had while he has been in charge of the Bank. Diplomatically, he made no mention of Mr Brown's predecessor, who has been known to suggest that the glory is all his own, and won despite, rather than because of, the efforts of the Governor.

But it is regulation that most concerns Mr George. As we know, the Chancellor somehow omitted to give the Governor much advance notice of his plans for Super-SIB. Had he done so, Mr George might have voiced his qualms in private rather than before a host of interested parties. As it was, he was able to point to the potential pitfalls for a mega-regulator and then say, with a barely discernible shrug of his shoulders, that it is no longer his problem — Howard Davies will have to cope.

The difficulties, however, should not be underestimated. Already one of Mr George's new colleagues on the monetary pol-

icy committee, Charles Goodhart, has made clear his views that the single regulatory body is not the best way to police an increasingly complicated financial sector.

The task facing Mr Davies and his colleagues at Super-SIB is hugely demanding and 100 per cent success will be impossible to achieve. Mr Davies, rather than Mr George, may be the one who faces the task of writing out his lines for the Chancellor.

Valuing Scottish independence

They are a pleasant bunch, the people who run Scottish Hydro-Electric. They also have one of the more stress-free jobs around. Wonderful scenery, raw materials that fall as the gentle rain from above — give or take the odd pylon that blows over, what could be peachier? But content breeds com-

placency. As one of the few remaining parts of the power industry still independent, the company has inevitably attracted bid attention. John Gray, the finance director, says smugly that his company might prove hard to take over, because the Government and the Scottish Office hold a golden share, and they would not want to sell a Scottish company to an overseas predator.

At this point two separate constituencies have a right to feel aggrieved. Firstly, consumers in England and Wales, a full two thirds of whose distribution network will shortly be owned by Americans, might wonder just what is so special about Scottish juice that it cannot be contaminated by foreign hands.

Secondly, investors who bought Scottish Hydro shares in 1991. They have had a good run, if not quite as good as other investors in the industry — the shares are 425p, against the 240p

they paid. But it was not made clear then that the company would be protected forever from takeover. Indeed, the price includes some degree of bid premium.

There are arguments, both emotional and practical, why a bid for Scottish Hydro could create problems. There is a strong affection in the Highlands for the dams and reservoirs, built by local hands within living memory — and strong local feelings have swung bids before now, as disappointed investors in Pilkington over the past decade are well aware.

But there is no intrinsic reason why a Scottish power company should be immune from takeover, whether the predator comes from south of the border or the other side of the Atlantic. Investors must accept that a change of government may strip their shares of any built-in bid premium, if competition policy changes as a

result. But Scottish Hydro would not be protected because of the need to retain a competitive market, but simply because it is Scottish.

The Government has indicated a more business-like approach to competition policy in recent days. Wrapping Scottish assets in tartan cling-film hardly accords with this.

St Tony rides to EMU's rescue

Tony Blair's headstrong insistence on putting unemployment at the centre of the European agenda at Amsterdam may not be as naïvely eccentric as it seems. On the latest OECD projections, cutting the EU's awful structural unemployment rates may be the only way to save the euro.

Germany, France and Italy will all miss the deficit test for monetary union in this, the reference year, although France and Germany would scrape through in 1998. Yet the OECD, like all similar establishment bodies, still says monetary union must go ahead on time.

One pragmatic reason is that, if the project unwinds, interest

rates outside Germany will rise and one-off fiddles will miss their target. More fundamentally, the OECD argues that structural budget deficits are within the 3 per cent on the button in Italy in 1998 with France at 2.1 per cent and Germany at 2.3 per cent.

This actually undermines any case for waiving the rules. Cyclical deficits are small with economies growing at an average 2½ per cent. Imagine what total deficits would be if economies were shrinking by 0.75 per cent a year? Yet under the Stability Pact, that is the minimum recession at which a country might break the deficit rule without penalty. No wonder France wants to change it.

To allow any leeway to combat local recession, budgets need to balance in normal times, which is impossible with unemployment so high in what the OECD fears may be a jobless recovery.

One step back

HOPES that company doctor David James would find a speedy cure for the ills at Sears's footwear business may end in disappointment. Decisions on store sales are on hold at least until September, delayed in part by complications over the leases. It seems that the leases on many of the shoe shops may now be guaranteed by other Sears retailing operations. Exiting the businesses could cost very much more than the optimistic Mr James had expected.

Johnson Matthey shares soar on Japanese deal

By CARL MORTSHED

SHARES in Johnson Matthey soared 13 per cent to 523p after the company announced a licensing agreement with Kyocera, the Japanese electronics group, yesterday.

The deal gives the UK engineering group access to Kyocera's "flip chip" technology for the manufacture of a new generation of plastic laminate packages for semiconductor devices, the successor to Johnson Matthey's packaging product that went into production last January.

Johnson Matthey is licensing its Plastic Land Grid Array technology to Kyocera in return for a licence over the flip chip technology. The UK company is currently producing 200,000 units a month with a target of reaching 1.5 million per month as sole supplier to a leading US semiconductor manufacturer, thought to be Intel.

The laminate packaging business, based in Wisconsin, came into profit for the first time in the second half but Johnson Matthey's group profits were held back by continuing weakness at Cookson Matthey Ceramics, the joint venture with Cookson Group.

Pre-tax profits for the year to March were up only 6 per cent to £108 million affected by a 36

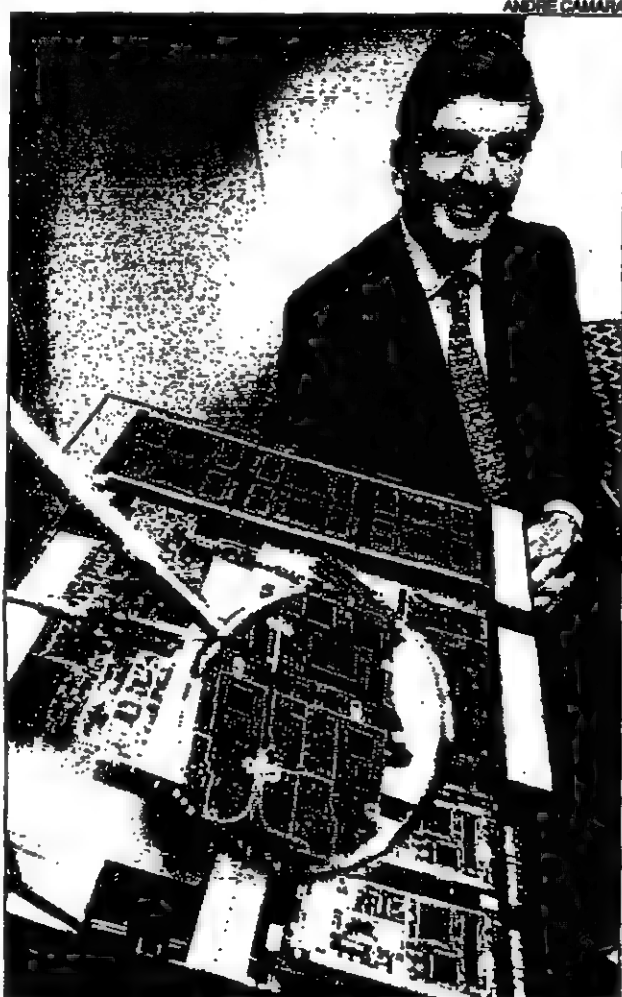
per cent decline in the contribution from ceramics, down to £15 million. David Davies, chairman, said the company remained committed to the business despite the continuing weakness in silicon, a product used by tile makers in Italy and Spain. Tile manufacturers have suffered from the slump in the German construction industry. "It is going to be a long haul to recovery," commented Mr Davies.

The strengthening pound lopped £1 million off Johnson Matthey's profits for the year due to the translation of dollar profits into sterling. About half of the group's profits are generated in the US, a bias that will continue as the contribution of electronic materials to group profits increases. Electronics raised its profits by 21 per cent to £30.9 million despite the weakness in the semiconductor market.

The catalytic converter business recovered strongly after the loss of a leading customer in the previous year. Profits grew 30 per cent to £34 million but the precious metals business achieved only a 4 per cent rise to £44 million.

Johnson Matthey is raising the dividend 7 per cent to 15.5p for the year.

Tempus, page 28



David Davies has signed a licensing deal in Japan

Fullers has pride in increased beer sales

By ADAM JONES

GROWTH in demand for its own beer brands increased annual profits at Fuller, Smith & Turner, the London brewer and pub operator.

Profit before tax grew from £10.6 million to £11 million in the year to March 29. Own-brand beer sales rose 8 per cent, with London Pride selling more than 100,000 barrels on the back of increased advertising, and sales of ESB beer rising 20 per cent. However, exports fell 5 per cent after a change of agent in the US.

Tenanted pub sales fell 2 per cent, reflecting the decline of community pubs in favour of themed houses in city centres. The company spent £16.2 million on capital projects, including a 54-bedroom hotel in West London.

Fullers said capital expenditure would be more ambitious in 1997-98 and gearing may increase from 3 per cent.

A second interim dividend of 6.93p, or 0.69p for holders of 8 shares, is due on July 1, making 10.03p (9.22p) for the full year.

An interim dividend of 3.79p (3.6p) per share is due to be paid on July 18.

Tempus, page 28

Hartstone chairman attacks £16m City fees

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHAUN DOWLING, chairman of Hartstone Group, launched a bitter attack on the City yesterday after revealing that the hosiery and leather goods company's three-year financial reconstruction had cost it £16 million.

Hartstone carried out a rights issue and borrowed £15 million from 23 banks in 1994, after splashing out on an unwise acquisition in the previous five years.

The company has since repaid the borrowings with interest, while fees to the various banks' advisers have

mounted to £16 million. Mr Dowling labelled this as unacceptable.

He added: "Lawyers, accountants and banks have no interest in changing the system, it is how they make their profits." He wants the law changed so that shareholders can put money into struggling companies knowing that they, rather than banks, will be first in line to be paid back in case of trouble.

The refinancing was completed this year when £16.3 million cumulative convertible redeemable preference

shares were issued to pay the balance of the debts owed to the last 14 banks.

In the year to March 31, the company made a pre-tax loss of £2.1 million, which was equal to the refinancing charge for the year. A year earlier it made a profit of £39,000. It is paying an unchanged final dividend of 0.32p.

With the financial reconstruction completed, the board will now "pay full attention to the development of our trading operations," Mr Dowling said.

MORTGAGES

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Premier Flexi Mortgage Rate 7.45% per annum.

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Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable) 7.94% per annum.

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BANK OF SCOTLAND a friend for life

EuroDollar sees ex-hire prices fall

By FRASER NELSON

EURODOLLAR, Britain's biggest vehicle-hire group, says the prices it gets for selling its ex-hire fleet have been permanently lowered by fierce competition from the new car market.

Ian Mosley, chief executive, said that financial packages offered with new cars are attracting people who would normally buy second-hand. This had cut the asking price of the six-month-old fleet to about 65 to 70 per cent of original cost, against 72 to 75 per cent two years ago.

He said: "Manufacturers are making new cars so attractive that they are appealing to

the man with £8,000 burning in his pocket. This probably is the new world and I think we are going to have to run a little faster to catch up. But this will not be a problem; our market is growing and we are capable of taking more than our share of it."

Success in lucrative corporate car hire helped EuroDollar to double pre-tax profits to £8.25 million (£3.76 million) to the year to March 31, as its operating margin grew from 13 per cent to 16 per cent. Earnings per share rose to 12.7p (6.15p). A 4.5p final dividend, due on August 5, makes 6.5p (4.12p).

LucasVarity profits please City

FIRST-QUARTER results from LucasVarity, the brakes and car electronics group, formed from a £3.2 billion merger last year, were well received by the stock market, which yesterday marked the shares 7p higher to 211p (Paul Dorman writes).

The company reported pre-tax profits of £72 million for the three months to April 30, a 16.1 per cent rise on the pro forma total for the same period last year. Operating profits rose 11.7 per cent to £86 million on sales 8.6 per cent higher at £1.2 billion.

Revenue boost for Daily Mail group

By ERIC REGULY

BUOYANT recruitment advertising and reduced losses at Channel One, the cable-TV news channel, lifted interim underlying profits of the Daily Mail and General Trust group 27 per cent.

The newspaper group, which owns the Daily Mail and its Sunday sister, said advertising revenue continues to be fairly strong. Pre-tax profits in the half year to March 31 were £46.9 million (£36.9 million), on turnover of £545 million, up 14 per cent. Earnings per share were 27.8p (22.3p).

Including exceptional items,

notably the £12.4 million gain on its investment in Westcountry Television, pre-tax profits were £55.6 million, up 60 per cent.

Circulation gains and a 15 per cent drop in newspaper prices lifted the newspaper division's operating profit 28 per cent to £53.7 million.

Channel One lost about £10 million last year and probably will lose £8 million or so this year, analysts said.

An interim dividend, payable on July 11, rises to 7p (4.6p). The shares lost 2½p to £17.60.

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bull run in London and New York expected to last

THE share buying bonanza on either side of the Atlantic continues apace, with both London and New York racing to record highs.

According to one leading securities house, the best is still to come. Merrill Lynch has been telling clients that the next step for the Dow Jones industrial average is 8,200, while the FTSE 100 index should be capable of reaching the 4,900 level in the short term. Only Hong Kong is seen as likely to suffer a correction.

Last night, the FTSE ended just below its best of the day with a rise of 32.6 to a closing high of 4,757.4 after drawing encouragement from the latest inflation numbers.

Once again it was happy to follow Wall Street higher, where the latest retail sales numbers saw interest rate fears recede.

NatWest bounced back from an initial markdown that was prompted by some bearish comments from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker. It is unimpressed with the group's recent performance and doubts its problems can be easily resolved. The price closed 15p higher at 709p.

A downgrading by Lehman Brothers left BT 3p lower at 470p. Lehman, however, is positive about BOC and the shares responded with a rise of 34p to £10.60.

Hopes that some big orders will be announced at next week's Paris Air Show lifted British Aerospace 14p to £13.79. Rolls-Royce 7p to 259p and GEC 8p to 369p.

The electricity companies continued to be excited by this week's £3.6 billion bid by Energy Group for PacificCorp of the US. Speculation is now rife about who the next target will be. Energy finished 6p dearer at 618p.

Southern Electric, 2p firmer at 433p, has the hot money riding on it with Northern Ireland Electricity, up 9p to 418p, also seen as a candidate. Scottish Hydro, which weighed in yesterday with full-year figures bang in line with expectations, rose 4p to 425p.

Cable and Wireless was 2p firmer at 543p. The directors have been topping up their holdings in the wake of last week's sale of a 5.5 per cent stake in its Hong Kong subsidiary to China. Laura Ashley, the troubled soft furnishings group, slipped a further 3p to yet another new low of 78p as stock continued to dribble out



Stephen Westoby, finance director, left, and Ian Mosley, of EuroDolar, up 3p after doubling of pre-tax profits

into the marketplace. Burton slipped 1p to 124p after losing its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

Boots touched 723p before bouncing back to end the session 1p firmer at 735p despite SBC Warburg reducing its recommendation from a "hold" to a "reduce".

A near 9 per cent rise in the number of passengers using its airports last month lifted

BAA Group 17p to 567p. Eurotunnel lost the previous day's gains with the price finishing 3p lower at 68p. The Prime Minister has said further talks with France would be needed to decide if the group's concession on running the link could be extended.

News of a bid approach sent Applary Group climbing 10p to 90p. The vehicle dealer

has come up from a low of 52p last month. Caffrys rose 35p to 357p, Lox Group 3p to 368p and Evans Halshaw 4p to 225p. Kwik Fit also put on 4p at 262p after meeting brokers in Scotland.

EuroDolar, the car hire specialist headed by Ian Mosley, chief executive, managed a 3p rise to 140p after managing to double pre-tax profits to £8.2 million.

The terms of an agreed bid lifted Nobe Group 13p higher at 138p. Rival Aco is offering 140p for the office equipment group valuing it at £25.5 million.

Inspirations touched 90p as news of a bid approach, but saw its lead cut back to just 1p at 80p after learning that an offer is unlikely to be above the market price.

Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, has added to the gloom surrounding the biotech companies with some cautious comments suggesting the sector is overvalued.

Cortec International fell 14p to 198p. PPL Therapeutics 5p to 397p, Cantab Pharmaceutical 5p to 902p, Drex Scientific 10p to 137p, Chiroscience 6p to 262p and Vanguard 8p to 557p.

WS Atkins was a flat market, losing 17p at 259p after falling out of the FTSE 250 index.

Encouraging comments about the benefits of its recent merger lifted LucasVarity 7p to 21p.

Margins are said to be improving. Better than expected profits news at Johnson Matthey was rewarded with a jump of 61p to £23p.

GILT-EDGED: Brokers reported a steepening of the yield curve as investors switched to shorter-dated issues after the Government's adjustment of the inflation target. Meanwhile, the market took its lead from stronger overseas bond markets with gains of around 1/2 recorded.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt put on £11.4p to £11.4p as a total of 71,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £17.3p better at £109, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks firmer at £103.7p.

NEW YORK: Shares surged again after the May retail sales figures turned out to be weaker than expected. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was ahead 71.78 points at 7,647.01.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	Dow Jones	7647.01 (+71.78)
S&P Composite		877.06 (+7.49)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	20564.40 (+74.53)
Hong Kong:	Hang Seng	13924.34 (+97.18)
Amsterdam:	EOE Index	839.36 (+12.21)
Sydney:	AO	2636.1 (+24.4)
Frankfurt:	DAX	3707.99 (+30.50)
Singapore:	Strait Times	1990.68 (+2.81)
Brussels:	General	13882.14 (+106.67)
Paris:	CAC-40	2760.27 (+64.08)
Zurich:	SSA Gen	1131.40 (+13.50)
London:	FT 30	3062.5 (+35.9)
	FTSE 100	4757.4 (+32.6)
	FTSE 250	4512.2 (+8.3)
	FTSE 350	2296.7 (+16.4)
	FTSE Europe 100	2406.56 (+20.74)
	FTSE All-Share	2252.99 (+15.14)
	FTSE Non Financials	2272.4 (+20.5)
	FTSE Fixed Interest	120.81 (+0.19)
	FTSE Govt Secs	96.84 (+0.31)
	Bargains	47750
	SEAD Volume	1.6342 (+0.0028)
	German Mark	2.6170 (+0.0010)
	Exchange Index	99.6 (+0.3)
	Bank of England official base rate	4.75%
	ECU	1.9369 May (2.65) Jan 1987=100
	RPI	156.9 May (2.54) Jan 1987=100
	RPIX	156.3 May (2.54) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	614	- 5%
Aston Villa	785	- 15
Canal 8	999	-
Downing Hth VCT	100	-
Eagles	25	-
Galaxie	201	+ 9
Halifax	754	- 2
Heart of Midlothian	113	-
Inti Biotech C Shares	99	-
Lady in Leisure	124	-
Longbridge Int	117	-
Newmark Tech	12	-
Petra Diamonds	95	-
Petra Diamonds Wts	75	-
Royalblue Group	211	- 1
SBS Group	117	-
Topps Tiles	112	-
Versallie Group	3	-

RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (205)	17
Tadpole Tech n/p (10)	-

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Applary	90p (+19p)
Shield Dig	560p (+62p)
Belt Bros	171p (+15p)
Jarvis	319p (+23p)
Scapa	214p (+15p)
Sherwood Int	280p (+19p)
Reed Elsevier	225p (+8p)
Flaxton	585p (+25p)
Paxon	509p (+20p)
Waddington	307p (+10p)
BBA	355p (+11p)
Hardy Oil	334p (+9p)
Meyer Int	441p (+10p)
Smita Ind	803p (+18p)
Travis Perkins	481p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Cortec	198p (-14p)
WS Atkins	259p (-17p)
Chiroscience	262p (-5p)
Bradford	289p (-8p)
Hall Eng	230p (-5p)
BT	470p (-8p)
Forth Ports	587p (-10p)
Black Leisure	482p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Power to confuse

CHAOs and confusion will soon take over the electricity industry. Having left it to others to set the agenda for electricity competition, the Recs and the Scottish companies have little choice but to meet the Government's timetable and the outcome will make the gas market trials look orderly.

Setting up a computer system to handle free competition in the time available may prove impossible. With gas, the buck stopped very clearly at the door of one company, TransCo which was charged with running the system, providing Ofgas with a useful whipping boy. The electricity market has no such corporate giant and in the end we may find Recs and the Scottish electricity companies hiring armies of staff to do the job the computer was meant to do if the computer was there to do it.

This should prove no more than a hiccup

for the electricity sector which can easily shoulder the interim financial cost of a data-processing debacle. The harder question is who will be the winner from free competition. On the strength of yesterday's results Scottish Hydro-Electric is unlikely to be in the running.

The company has made great play of its geographic ambitions but to date has little to show for it but a power station acquired from Norweb and a few small combined heat and power plants. Scottish Hydro proudly points to its growing profits from England and Wales, up 16 per cent last year but the question is at what cost. Borrowings soared by £244 million last year and the interest bill rose by more than £13 million, considerably more than the profits gain. This is not a winning strategy.

Johnson Matthey

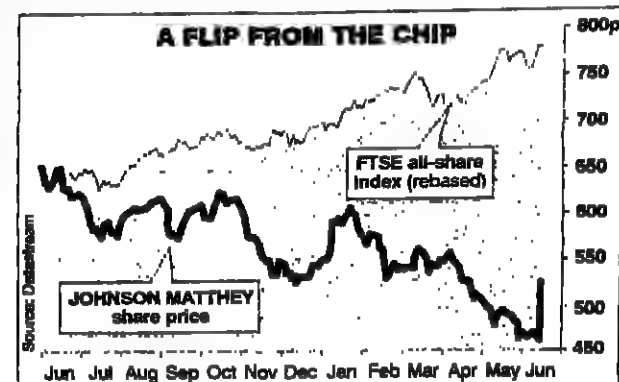
IN THE computer industry, today's cutting edge becomes tomorrow's blunt instrument before you can say knife. Johnson Matthey's laminate packaging plant has just started production, but the company already knows that a better technology will hit the market in three years. That should not be a problem as long as Johnson Matthey can get volumes up to target and yields up to scratch by the end of the year, providing several years of bumper returns before the Kyocera product hits the market.

But Johnson Matthey has done better: a sweetheart deal with Kyocera should give it a stake in the next generation product and keep its US plant humming.

Yesterday's results give oth-

er reasons for confidence. With a computer industry suffering a mini-slump, the electronic materials division still raised profits a fifth. An indication of what returns could be like when faster growth returns and the Wisconsin plant is in full production. Ceramics is still a problem, not least because the joint venture makes an exit

difficult, but zircon prices are no longer in decline. This year should see buoyant cash flow from strong profits growth and a halving of the rate of capital spend. The problem for Johnson Matthey will be how to spend the cash but investors should not ponder that problem too deeply before buying the stock.



DMGT

THERE is no doubt that the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, the national newspapers owned by Daily Mail and General Trust, are winning the war between the mid-market tabloids. The company has proved that strong investment can produce better results than cutting costs.

The surge in the titles' popularity, of course, has come at a price. Their operating margins are only about 10 per cent and, as long as management thinks more readers can be won, they will remain at this relatively low level.

For shareholders, this is the bad news. The good news is that it appears the circulation gains are becoming more difficult to achieve as the mid-market reaches saturation levels. The company, in other words, may decide to scale back its investment programme: a move that could send margins to 15 per

cent. A small cover price increase could take them higher still.

But buyers should beware. There is speculation that the Chancellor's Budget, next month will slap value-added tax on newspapers, with potentially disastrous results. If, as seems likely, newspapers escape VAT, the *Daily Mail* shares remain attractive if the advertising market holds.

FKI

FKI loves to talk about its new products, but it is less keen to discuss its impressive margins.

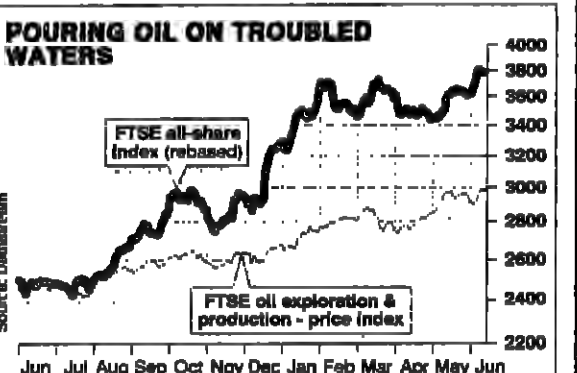
The change of emphasis is important because it underlines the engineering company's unhappiness with its stock market rating. It looks enviously towards Siebe, which benefits from a reputation for technological excellence. FKI must combat the impression that its success is more out of cost-cutting in mature industry, and

waiting for the next big deal to come along. Hence the new product mantra that runs throughout yesterday's review of results.

It is still hard to see Bob Beeston, the Yorkshire chief executive, losing his head to new technology. He looked much more comfortable stamping on the innocent suggestion that there would be few job losses at Hawker Siddeley Electric Power Group, acquired from BTR last November.

If FKI is believed, the success of new products was a significant factor in the impressive performances from the materials handling and hardware divisions. Not all the examples cited sound wholly convincing. But whether or not one is prepared to swallow the message, the company is confident that it can maintain momentum. On its record, it justifies continued support.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



Double-digit gains were recorded among the oils, with BP putting on 4p to 745p and Shell 16p to £12.33p ahead of an exploration and production presentation in The Hague yesterday for brokers and fund managers.

Despite the "rocky ride" for the oil price in recent months, the sector is still seen as a defensive haven.

Steven Brown, who watches the sector for Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, says there is little in the way of good news in the pipeline but emphasises

that the sector continues to perform well. "Investors appear happy to keep their money in defensive sectors. The big companies have seen 7 per cent increases in their upstream volumes and they should continue to enjoy earnings growth of between 10 per cent and 12 per cent right up until the end of the decade".

Despite the prospect of further volatility in the oil price, prospects for the sector appear encouraging. "Investors are still happy to run with it" adds Brown.

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London 6.00pm)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)				LIFE WHEAT		LIFE BARLEY	
				time 1/4		time 1/4	
Jul	16.90	+1.25		Jul	5.30	58.00	82.00
Aug	17.15	+1.50		Aug	5.40	58.00	82.00
Sept	17.40	+1.75		Sept	5.50	58.00	82.00
Oct	17.65	+2.00		Oct	5.60	58.00	82.00
Nov	17.90	+2.25		Nov	5.70	58.00	82.00
Dec	18.15	+2.50		Dec	5.80	58.00	82.00
Jan	18.40	+2.75		Jan	5.90	58.00	82.00
Feb	18.65	+3.00		Feb	6.00	58.00	82.00
Mar	18.90	+3.25		Mar	6.10	58.00	82.00
PRODUCTS (\$/M)				Volumetric		Volumetric	
ICE-NL Europe (gross delivery)							
				LIFE POTATO (t/ha)		LIFE BEANS (t/ha)	
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE FUTURES (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
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Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
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Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
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Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
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Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
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Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
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LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
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Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov	1.50	1.50		Nov	1.50	1.50	
Dec	1.55	1.55		Dec	1.55	1.55	
Jan	1.60	1.60		Jan	1.60	1.60	
Feb	1.65	1.65		Feb	1.65	1.65	
Mar	1.70	1.70		Mar	1.70	1.70	
LIFE BEANS (t/ha)				LIFE BEANS (t/ha)			
Jul	1.30	1.30		Jul	1.30	1.30	
Aug	1.35	1.35		Aug	1.35	1.35	
Sept	1.40	1.40		Sept	1.40	1.40	
Oct	1.45	1.45		Oct	1.45	1.45	
Nov</							

BUSINESS
LETTERSGro-NED fills
strategic gap

From Mr Michael J Snyder
Sir, I was interested to see your article "How UK firms have become short-sighted" about research undertaken, which concludes that UK larger and medium-sized companies place little importance on strategic planning.

Kingsion Smith has just released research undertaken by Professor Hussey of the Bristol Business School that suggests that among owner-managed businesses long-term planning was also a hit-or-miss affair. Over half did not have a long-term strategy (meaning one extending beyond one year), but the position was dramatically better in companies where non-executive directors are employed. For example, only 25 per cent of companies with non-executive directors had no planned strategy whatsoever, compared with 75 per cent of the companies without non-executive directors.

Our earlier research on owner-managed business showed that better-performing smaller companies employed non-executive directors. The provision of long-term strategic planning is just an example of how a non-executive can add an extra dimension of relevant skill or experience that an entrepreneur values but cannot justify using on a full-time basis. Unfortunately 57 per cent of owner-managed businesses are still fighting shy of employing a non-executive director.

So why is it that so many of our entrepreneurs have no time for this type of help when all the evidence shows that such companies often prove to be more successful? One reason may be that the very term "non-executive director" is a turn off, conjuring up an image of high costs and low relevance.

There is obviously an enormous communications job to be done to encourage the use of non-executive directors in smaller companies and therefore improve the overall performance of this vital part of our economy. At Kingsion Smith we have already taken one major initiative — the launch of "Gro-NED", our register of non-executive directors suitable for smaller companies.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SNYDER,
Senior Partner,
Kingsion Smith,
Chartered Accountants,
Devonshire House,
60 Goswell Road,
London EC1.

Game of the name

From Mr N. Denton
Sir, Had merger talks between the National Westminster and Abbey National banks come to fruition would they have traded under the name Westminster Abbey? Yours faithfully,
NIGEL L. DENTON,
12 Maria Court,
Southgate Road,
Reading,
Berk.

Letters to The Times
Business section
can be sent by fax
on 0171-782 5112.

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

A welcome policy revision
but will it save the economy?

Brown's change
to the monetary
framework may
not be enough
if Labour faces
a political crisis

For once Gordon Brown has done something so obviously sensible that even I can find no reason to object. The Chancellor's decision to change the Bank of England's inflation target from "2.5 per cent or less" simply to "2.5 per cent" is not going to change the course of history, but it could be first of a long series of measures that gradually restore Labour's economic policy to the pragmatic neo-Keynesian course pursued so successfully by Kenneth Clarke. With luck, Mr Brown's sensational decision, on his very first full day in office, to make the Bank independent, could even turn out to be the high-water mark of new Labour's new monetarism.

In welcoming the Mansion House speech, I do not want to imply that Mr Brown's new instructions have directly improved the prospects for the British economy or will influence the Bank's monetary policy in the next year or so. The short-term risks created by central bank independence have not been diminished one iota simply by dropping those two little words "or less".

There is not, in the foreseeable future, the slightest prospect of inflation dropping below 1.5 per cent, the bottom of the tolerance zone implied by yesterday's announcement. With incomes rising, unemployment falling and £30 billion worth of building society windfalls raining down on still-incredulous consumers, the risks at the moment are all on the upside. Indeed, the Bank's Governor could well be forced to issue the first of his open letters to the Chancellor explaining why inflation has deviated by more than 1 per cent during the course of next year. To the extent that Mr Brown has implied a rather narrow margin of error around his 2.5 per cent inflation target, this new policy framework could even lead to a slight tightening of monetary policy in the short term. It will only be from next year onwards, when the present mini-boom may have turned to a bust, that the new approach may begin to help by removing the bias in monetary policy towards ever-lower inflation.

Until there is tangible evidence that the economy is slowing (and that may not come until well into next year), it remains likely that the Bank of England will keep raising interest rates and will be forced to let sterling harden further. In fact, the Bank may feel obliged to push rates even higher if the pound continues to appreciate, since the strength of the pound will add temporarily to real incomes and consumer demand, as well as casting doubt on the sustain-

ability of the present low inflation. The delayed effects of rising interest rates and a hardening currency, plus the higher taxes that are bound to be announced in next month's Budget, will all hit the economy together in about a year's time.

The boom in consumption that I expect in the coming months as a result of the building society windfalls could well make the coming bust even worse, since much of the windfall spending will probably go on durables such as furniture, appliances and cars — and will, therefore, bring forward many purchases that would otherwise have waited until 1998. As a result, 1998 could turn out to be a year of economic disappointment — of very low growth and perhaps even of rising unemployment. The Chancellor seems prepared to take this risk. Perhaps he would even welcome an economic slowdown in 1998 in the hope of proving once and for all that inflation is dead in Britain and then presiding over a resurgence of economic growth and confidence in the second half of the parliament, from 1999 to 2001. If this is the plan, then the Mansion House speech should make a modest contribution to its fulfilment.

By next year, if I am right in expecting a significant slowdown, the risks facing the Bank of England will be biased towards low activity and therefore towards low inflation. At the same time, the inflation figures being published from month to month might well be at or above 3.5 per cent and sterling might be falling back from overvalued extremes as the economy showed clear signs of slowing. The new monetary framework could, at least in theory, allow the Bank to start cutting interest rates, despite the rather poor short-term outlook for inflation.

Suppose, for example, that by the second half of next year unemployment is rising, sterling is falling and inflation is above 3.5 per cent. The Governor could explain in one of his open letters to the Chancellor that inflation was overshooting because of the lagged effects of the 1997 consumer boom, which, in turn, was set in train by policies before the general election. The current rate of inflation was also being temporarily exaggerated by the one-off fall in sterling. But with unemployment rising, consumer demand weak and taxes still

going up, for the Bank to maintain a tight monetary policy would run the risk of pushing inflation too far below its target in future years. Under these circumstances, the Bank could start easing interest rates rather earlier in 1998 — under the new policy framework — than it would have under the old target of "2.5 per cent or less".

Mr Brown's revisions to the monetary framework are thoroughly welcome, therefore. Whether they will be enough to save the economy from a serious downturn and the Government from a political crisis is another matter.

I have long feared that the day when Tony Blair is forced to stand up in parliament and admit that the declining trend of unemployment he inherited from the Tories has suddenly turned upwards could be the Black Wednesday of the Labour Government. An increase in unemployment after just one year of Labour Government could easily be enough to damage public confidence in Mr Blair as irreparably as the devaluation of sterling damaged John Major — and judging by the recent volatility of politics throughout Europe the Tories could easily have had a

chance of winning a subsequent general election.

Now, however, such a nightmare for Labour seems much less plausible since the Tories seem bent on throwing away their only electoral asset — the brilliant economic record built up by Kenneth Clarke. Accordingly the electoral gamble implicit in Mr Brown's economic strategy now seems less risky than it would have been if the Tories had not lost their collective sanity.

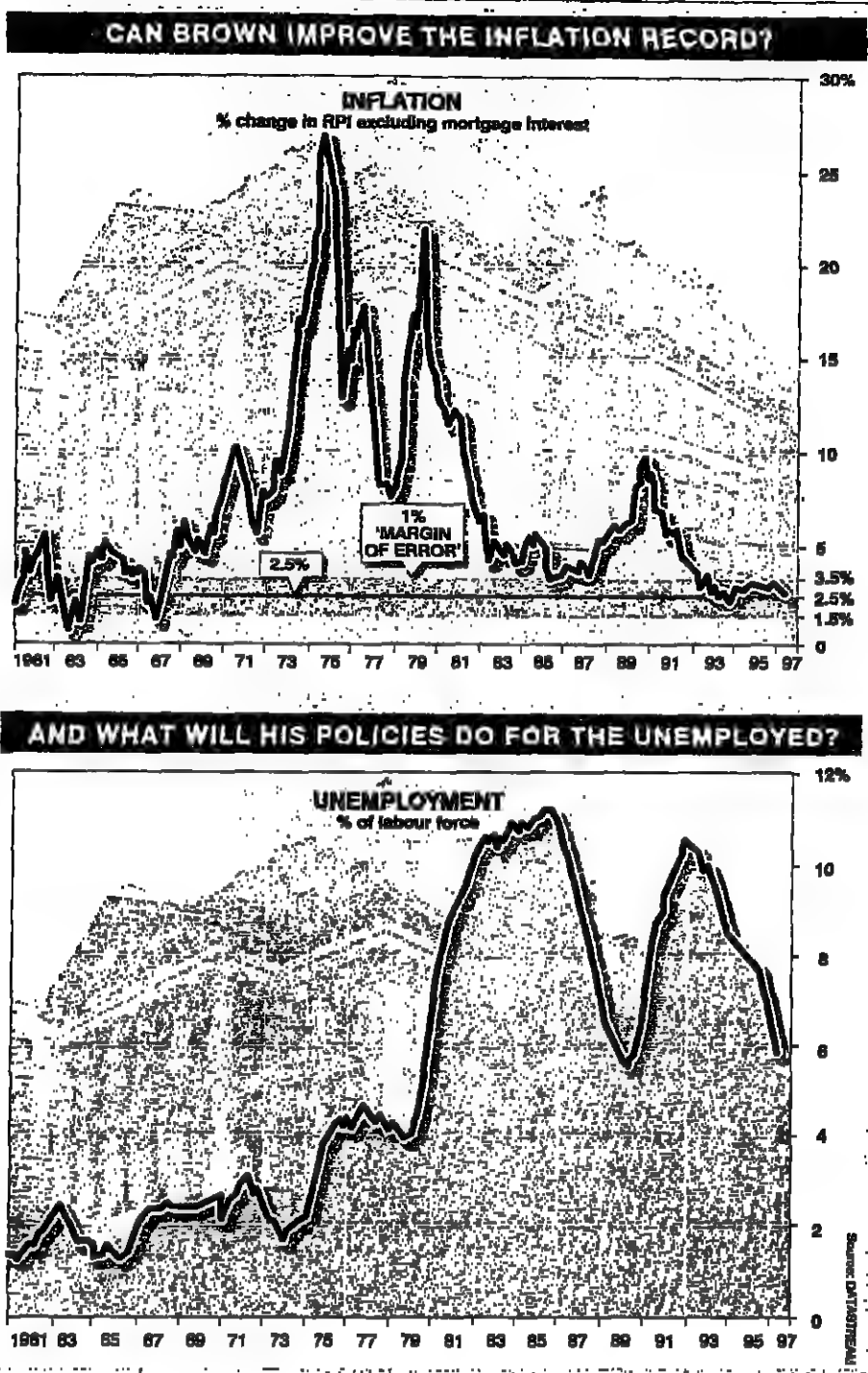
But the arguments against giving the Bank of England independence still stand after last night's Mansion House speech. It remains impossible for the Government to coordinate an increase in taxes with a deliberate devaluation of sterling and loosening of monetary policy. That means that substantially higher taxes cannot be justified from either a political or economic point of view. That, in turn, means that there is little chance of crafting the sort of carefully calibrated combination of monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies that might have gradually deflated the consumer boom with a minimum of collateral damage to the economy.

As in the days of Nigel Lawson, the main consequence of a supposedly "long-term" policy of maintaining stability at all costs is likely to be to aggravate the booms and busts that the policy was supposed to avoid.

All the objections, in principle, to central bank independence also remain valid. Mr Brown's speech does nothing to reverse the dangerous precedent of shifting one of the most important powers of government from elected politicians to supposedly omniscient technocrats.

The tone of this speech also reaffirmed the central thrust of the monetarist philosophy of central bank independence: that the primary function of monetary policy is to control inflation, while unemployment can only be reduced by better education, higher investment, labour-market flexibility and other structural reforms. By removing from economic policy one of the main tools for sustaining full employment, this doctrine promotes the illusion that nothing can be done in the short term about mass unemployment, and that all the related social evils can only be relieved through long-term "structural" programmes that will take decades, if not generations, to produce results.

The embodiment of this philosophy in German, and therefore in European, central bank doctrine is indeed, the biggest objection to independence. This is the reason why Lionel Jospin is now, rightly, questioning European Monetary Union. In America, by contrast, the Federal Reserve sees the maintenance of full employment as one of its main tasks — which is why central bank independence in America has not had the same pernicious effects as it has in Germany and (pre-Jospin) France. It would have been interesting to hear some reflections on these points from the Tories could easily have had a

Swiss account
find revives
copper inquiry

Robert Miller assesses the year-long
investigation into Mr Five Per Cent

British investigators working on the \$26 billion Sumitomo copper scandal received a boost yesterday with news that the rogue trader accused of rigging the global copper market held a secret Swiss bank account.

Reports in Japan suggest that Yasuo Hamanaka, the former chief copper trader at Sumitomo Corporation and the man blamed for the losses, transferred money he earned from copper trades in Japan and other countries to an unidentified Zurich bank account that holds 80 million yen (£500,000).

Mr Hamanaka, who has been charged with forging documents and fraud, is a Japanese who has already pleaded guilty to certain charges, will face another round of tough questioning by the Japanese police and civil authorities about the Swiss account. Their UK counterparts at the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), on the criminal side of the copper inquiry,

side of the copper inquiry was showing signs of running out of steam.

The copper inquiry is one of the largest and most complex ever undertaken and spans at least four jurisdictions — the UK, the US, Japan and Chile, where the affair began more than three years ago. Then Codelco, the Chilean state copper company, claimed that it had become the victim of a \$200 million fraud and blamed Juan Pablo Davila, its former chief trader, who until recently was held by the Chilean authorities. Some of the Codelco deals were routed through Winchester Commodities Group, founded by Charlie "Copperfingers" Vincent and Ashley Levett, who owns Richmond Rugby Club. Both men, who have consistently denied any wrong doing, have homes in the UK, which have been raided by the SFO, and Monte Carlo and are reputed to have earned £15 million in a single year.



Hamanaka: charged

The SFA began an investigation into the Winchester trades with Codelco. Last year this concluded that on the evidence to date no further action would be taken against Winchester or its directors. The SFA did, however, broaden its investigation publicly acknowledging that it was investigating the Sumitomo losses and the role of Mr Hamanaka, known as Mr Five Per Cent for the proportion of the market he represented.

Shortly after, the SFO began its own inquiry led by Andrew Jackson, an in-house SFO lawyer, and officers from the City of London fraud squad. The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which regulates brokers and futures traders, is also closely involved and has seconded staff to the SIB as many of the trades for Mr Hamanaka were routed through London broking houses, while others were executed by US firms.

The UK authorities must now decide how to proceed. Until the discovery of the Hamanaka bank account in Switzerland the criminal

because the Winchester connection kept cropping up in connection with a completely separate company, Sumitomo. This in turn led to Guernsey where in May last year, the SIB, using its broader powers on behalf of the SFA, asked the Guernsey authorities to raid a number of offices.

Documents seized in the Guernsey raids led the SFO to raid the offices of Kay Accounting, a small book-keeping and accountancy firm. Sooner rather than later the SFO, led by Ros Wright, will have to decide whether, on the evidence to date, there is any likelihood of securing a conviction in the UK. If there is not then the City watchdogs will be turned loose to begin disciplinary action against a number of firms that did copper deals for Mr Hamanaka.

TRUST ME

goodwill n. 1 document in which you are left something of value 2 what you should extend to others when this occurs 3 the good reputation of a business and its contacts with its customers.

partnership n. 1 seagoing accommodation for lawyers, accountants etc. 2 unregistered business where two or more people share the risks and profits equally.

joint venture n. 1 trip inspired by illegal substance (orig. *sixties*) 2 annual orthopaedic holiday 3 business planned by two or more persons, companies etc.

bond n. 1 attach fingers together with superglue 2 agent with liking for dry martinis (*shaken, not stirred*) 3 contract document promising to repay money.

flotation n. 1 launching of a commercial enterprise on the Stock Exchange 2 life belt or similar device required if enterprise sinks.

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Under water

NIGHTMARE on Princes Street. Staff at the NatWest branch and offices there, only just re-opened after refurbishment at a cost not far short of £20 million, arrived for work the other day to find the basement under two feet of water. Nothing to do with the recent storms, but a burst water main. This is rather more serious than it sounds, because the basement contains not only a fair few safety deposit boxes, happily watertight, but an unquantified number of

packages and other documents deposited by customers for safe keeping, unhappily nothing of the kind.

The building has been evacuated, and all 27,000 accountholders at the branch asked to conduct their business at nearby Lombard Street or Bishopsgate for several months. NatWest staff are now faced with two questions. First, which of the various scientific methods used to dry out paper is safest? And second, who is to blame for insurance purposes? The main is on the bank's property, and no one was digging up the street nearby. "It appears to have burst without any human intervention," says an insider lugubriously.

● A CURIOUS tale of management incompetence from the normally rather together media group Emap. The disposal of 14 business titles, including such must-reads as *Meat Trades Journal* and *British Baker*, leaked embarrassingly to the press a while back. Emap has never admitted how. But it seems that a fax from Robin Miller, the chief executive, to that effect was accidentally sent to the offices of Screen International, the cinema magazine and one of the titles to be sold. The staff were a little put out at the news. They are also, understandably, not short of friends in the media.



Energy leak

IT IS disaster day all round, I fear. Total chaos again, this time at Energy Group. There are those of us who assume that the purchase by PacificCorp that leaked this week is a done deal. John Devaney, who runs the Eastern electricity side, is already counting the spoils of his second round of fat-cattery — he sold the old Eastern to Hanson in 1995 and will do rather well again once the Americans take control. But the message does not seem to have got to everyone at head office. A gaggle of utilities analysts are due to tour Energy Group's coal mines in Virginia next month. Several are now wondering whether they should still pack their smalls and make sure their passports are up to date. But they

complain that they are receiving little guidance from the company. "It's on hold until we know what's going on," says a jittery Energy Group employee before slamming the phone down. Baffling. The company was stitched together by Lord Hanson and offered up to American predators on a silver platter with an apple between its teeth. Why, then, does the emergence of a bolder cause such panic?

Tug of love

A QUESTION from Westminster. Will Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, be participating in the upcoming Parliamentary tug-of-war? The event, in which the House of Commons takes on the House of Lords, is being sponsored by a certain American lottery operator. None other than GTEch, which helps to run our own National Lottery, a body not at present top of Smith's Christmas card list.

● SOME good news for a change. An independent survey by Hyperion Software claims to have identified where the most job losses have taken place over the past five years. The answer: in the finance department. As you sow, so shall you reap.

The X-files

BATTY but true. The sinister-sounding National Register is a database

run by a company called GB Information Management that can access the entire 44 million-strong electoral roll and log any personal details available about us all. GB has created a multiple personality profile of the three Tory Party leadership contenders, plus John Major and Tony Blair — or at least profiles of anyone who happens to share those names. It seems the average Kenneth Clarke likes going to the pub. William Hague lives in Yorkshire. So far, so true. Also, John Redwood reads science fiction. Presumably to find out what his relatives are up to.

MARTIN WALLER



Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, faces a knotty problem at Westminster



"It's from the Government — ignore it until we get a final demand"

FKI turns from deals to organic growth

By PAUL DURMAN

FKI, the engineering group that made an unsuccessful £190 million bid for Newmarket earlier this year, expects new products and organic development to become an increasingly important source of its growth, reducing the previous emphasis on deals and cost-cutting.

Bob Beeston, chief executive, said that FKI did not have any growing businesses when he joined it five years ago. Management had therefore initially concentrated on improving profit margins. Its rapid growth has been fuelled by a series of deals, typically followed by redundancies and other cost-cutting measures.

However, Mr Beeston said that FKI is now reaping rewards from its investment in new product development over the past three years.

More of its profits are coming from newer products that command higher margins.

As examples, Mr Beeston pointed to Bristol Babcock's remote terminal units (RTUs), which measure flows from gas and oil wells, and Whipp & Bourne's innovative autoclosers, used in electricity transmission. Mr Beeston said that FKI was competing for several multimillion-pound contracts with RTUs, and its autoclosers had "wiped out GEC from the market".

Mr Beeston said: "We have built up some very good market leaders, be they regional or international." He is confident that FKI's organic development will enable it to maintain the momentum of earnings growth over the longer term. He said that acquisitions will remain important, but only as one source of growth.

Benefit from new products helped FKI to lift underlying profits 24.4 per cent, to £12.1 million, last year, in spite of a severe downturn in its material handling division. It received a £12.2 million benefit from last year's acquisitions, which included the Hawker Siddeley Electric Power Group and Marelli, an Italian maker of low-voltage electric motors.

However, the £21 million cost of reorganising the acquisitions, and the £3.5 million cost of the Newman Tonks bid, cut pre-tax profits from £84.1 million to £87.6 million. These costs also cut earnings per share from 11.3p to 9.22p, although FKI preferred to focus on "normalised" earnings, up to 13.28p.

With the addition of Marelli and the Hawker Siddeley business, engineering has become the largest division. It reported operating profits up from £15.7 million to £23.9 million.

A 3.5p final dividend, due on October 6, will make op. up 15.4 per cent.

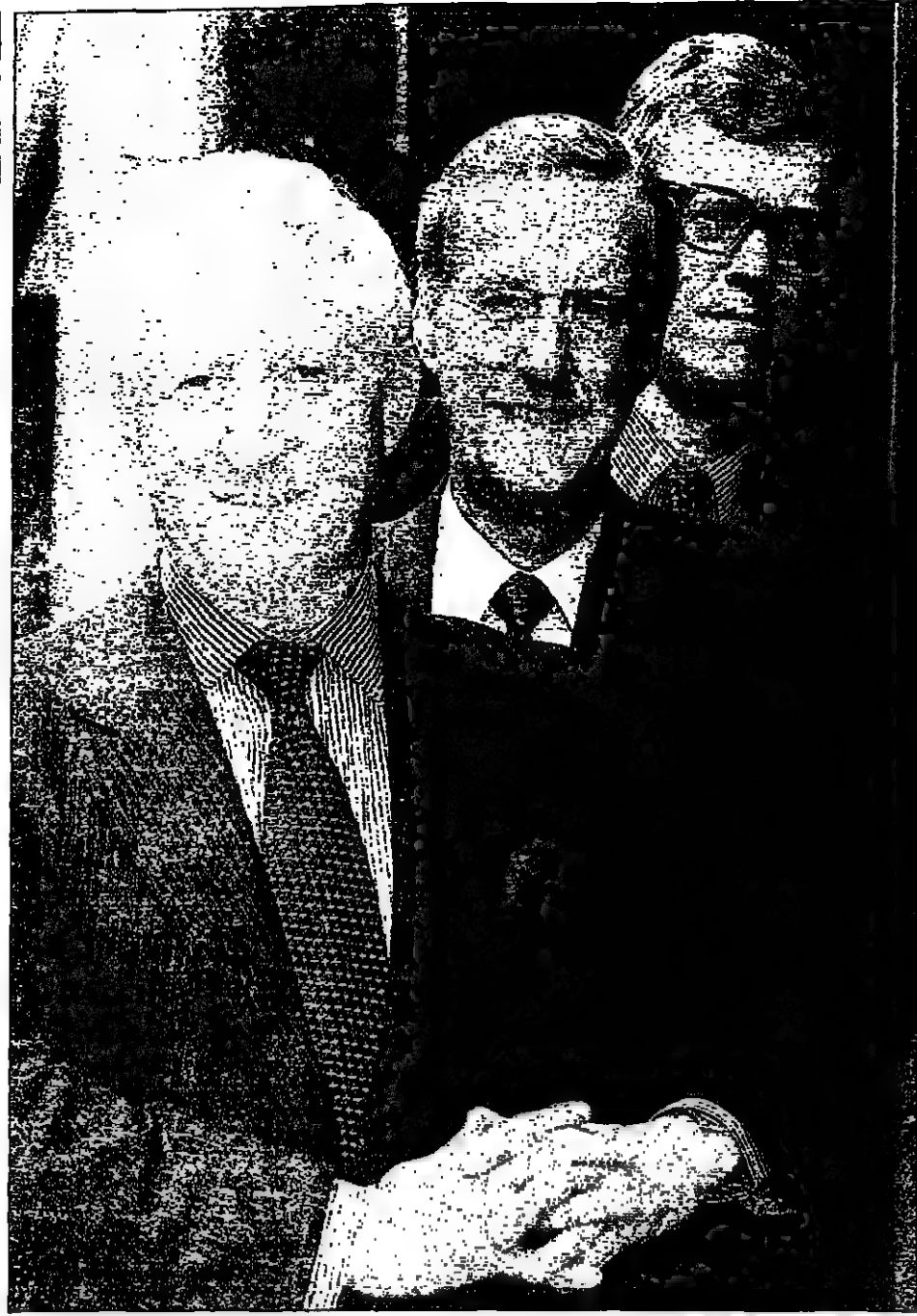
Tempus, page 28

First-half boost for GWB

GARTLAND Whalley and Barker, the industrial corporate developer established by a team of executives who worked at FKI, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £15.58 million, for the six months to April 30.

The company, whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, invests in emerging companies. The company's stable has included Aquarius Group, the bathroom products company, which was floated on the Stock Exchange this year, valuing GWB's stake at £20.6 million.

GWB reported earnings of 13p a share (5.6p). The interim dividend is 1.2p a share (nil).



David Dunn, foreground, with Harry Tuley, centre, and Derek Walker, finance director

Rally for Scapa price over improved figures

By ADAM JONES

THE strong pound had a smaller than expected effect on annual profits at Scapa, the supplier of equipment to the paper-making industry, leading to a rally in its share price yesterday.

The shares rose 15p to 214p as the company announced a pre-tax profit of £66.5 million for the year to March 31, compared with £62.3 million. The share price had dropped as low as 181p in the past fortnight in the general gloom surrounding

manufacturing concerns in the current sterling climate.

Adverse currency movements accounted for more than £1.7 million when overseas earnings were converted to sterling. If sterling continues at its current levels, the estimated translation effect will be £3.2 million this year.

Turnover was £526.8 million (£525.8 million). Scapa's paper-making products and services arm accounted for 48 per cent, with the remainder provided by its non-paper

activities: technical tapes and speciality materials.

Scapa, led by David Dunn, chief executive, and Harry Tuley, chairman, is to continue to diversify away from the paper industry. It said that order books were still strong in this area and a high rate of growth was expected from new technical tapes businesses in 1997 and beyond.

A final dividend of 5.28p (4.89p) will be paid on August 15, making a total of 7.2p (6.68p) for the year.

Protean's German firm faces a long recovery

By PAUL DURMAN

PROTEAN, the laboratory equipment maker, expects a long haul before it will be able to restore profits at DWA, the German water purification business responsible for the slump in its results last year.

Geoff Spink, Protean's managing director, said that management and staff of DWA, which Protean bought for £12.9 million in 1995, were used to having their market to themselves. The firm, which is based near Heidelberg and makes water purifiers used in kidney dialysis, was slow to respond when competitors appeared and demand weakened.

Mr Spink said: "The business was not as good as we thought it was when we bought it. We have to take the blame for that."

DWA made an operating profit of only £200,000 in the year to March 31, less than a tenth of what it made in the last nine months of the previous year. Tackling the problems, including making 20 staff redundant, has cost Protean £1.3 million.

This left the group with pre-tax profits of £8.7 million, down from £10.3 million, on sales that rose from £73 million to £81 million. Protean hopes to return to profit growth this year.

While DWA caused a 29 per cent fall, to £3.9 million, in operating profits from the water purification division, the analytical and thermal equipment arm increased its contribution 31 per cent, to £5.5 million. Much of the improvement came from FTS Systems, an American freeze-drying and cooling equipment firm bought for an initial \$18 million last August.

With Protean's shares having fallen so heavily because of the DWA problems, Mr Spink intends to finance future acquisitions from the company's own resources. He believes that Protean should be able to produce organic growth of 6 to 8 per cent a year.

The company plans to pay a 5p final dividend on July 31, maintaining the total at 6.6p.

The shares stayed at 140p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 270p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Nobo Group accepts £25m American bid

NOBO GROUP, the office products company, has agreed to a bid worth £25.6 million from Acco World Corporation, part of Fortune Brands, of the US. Acco is offering 140p a share, a 25.6 per cent premium to the middle market price of 111½p on March 27, the day before Nobo announced that bid talks were under way. The shares yesterday rose 13½p, to 138½p.

Acco has already acquired, from Reg Barr and Peter Kent, the two founder non-executive directors, and certain trusts associated with them, 17.9 per cent of Nobo shares and has received acceptances in respect of a further 4.6 per cent. Nobo, based in Eastbourne, East Sussex, last month warned investors that profits before tax and exceptional items for the year to May 2 would be about a third below the £2.93 million profits reported for the previous 12 months. Difficult trading conditions in Britain and on the Continent have held back profits in the past two years and Nobo shares have traded at below the high of 267p seen in the first quarter of 1994.

New plant for Seagate

SEAGATE, the US manufacturer of computer disks, is to invest £148 million in a new plant in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork, which will produce data storage magnetic tapes. The company already employs 1,500 in a similar operation in Clonmel, and last week announced the doubling of its workforce to 2,000 at its Derry operation in Northern Ireland. Seagate's plans were widely leaked in the run-up to last Friday's general election in the Republic of Ireland.

St James advances

ST JAMES BEACH HOTEL, operator of hotels in Barbados, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.9 million, from £1.4 million, in the year to March 31 in spite of occupancy falling to 68 per cent, from 71 per cent. Ray Horney, chairman, said that the result was commendable but short of directors' expectations, partly because of sterling's strength against the dollar and one-off costs associated with the start of VAT in Barbados. A 4p final dividend makes 5.75p, up 20 per cent. The shares fell 4p to 160p.

Thyssen expands in US

THYSSEN, the German steel and engineering group, is to launch an agreed \$700 million takeover bid for Giddings & Lewis. G&L has annual turnover of about \$700 million, making it the biggest machine tool maker in America. About half of its sales are to the motor industry. The company has eight plants in the US, and one in Canada, Germany and Britain. Thyssen said the formal offer would come within the next few days and would be worth \$21 a share.

CPL Aromas in the red

SHARES in CPL Aromas continued their spectacular decline yesterday as the spice and fragrances distributor's shake-up plans failed to revive City faith. After a £3.52 million restructuring, CPL incurred a £557,000 pre-tax loss (£2.93 million profit) in the year to March 31, a loss per share of 6.4p (16.4p earnings). The shares, 507p last summer, fell 5p to a 95p low. Terry Pickthall, chairman, is to replace Eric Atkins as chief executive. A 2.9p final dividend, due on July 30, holds the total at 4.5p.

Anglo-Welsh buoyant

ANGLO-WELSH, the canal boat hire company that was floated on the Alternative Investment Market in February, has said it is on course to make profits of £315,000 this year after buying Dartline and Trevor Wharf, its rivals. After tax rebate of £273,000, it made net profits of £365,000 for 1996, against an £89,000 loss last time. Its shares, which joined the market at 108p in February, held at 95½p. There is no dividend.

Provision knocks JLI

JLI, the food processing and snacks company, incurred a pre-tax loss of £8.6 million in the year to March 31 after setting aside £9.9 million to close Tee Gee Snacks. Higher than expected costs meant a further £700,000 added to the £9.2 million provision announced at the interim stage. JLI has appointed a group chief executive, Tony Orvis, to work alongside Yoav Gottesman, chairman. It is paying an unchanged final dividend of 3.3p on September 5, maintaining its full-year dividend of 4.95p.

Appleyard drives car shares higher

By FRASER NELSON AND KEITH DYER

SHARES of smaller car dealerships jumped sharply yesterday after Appleyard said it had received an approach from a potential bidder, signalling what could be a wave of consolidation in the sector.

Appleyard's shares, which had halved to 52p since summer last year as the group struggled to adapt to the large-scale dealerships favoured by manufacturers, closed 27 per cent stronger at 141p, having already risen to 71p in heavy trading this week.

Analysts said that Appleyard, which is now valued at £59.4 million, could be seen as an attractive target by virtue of

its eight successful Audi and Volkswagen dealerships.

The group reported a loss of £5.08 million last year, but has already returned to the black and is expected to make a pre-tax profit of £6.4 million for 1997.

Speculation in the City about the Appleyard approach centred on Reg Vardy, which raised £27 million to fund expansion less than a year ago, and Daimler Motoren as potential bidders.

Shares of Cullifex, the Eastbourne trader, rose 35p to a three-year high of 357½p, valuing it at £11.9 million. DCC Clark gained 1p to 49p.

Prudential announce a rate change of great interest to savers.

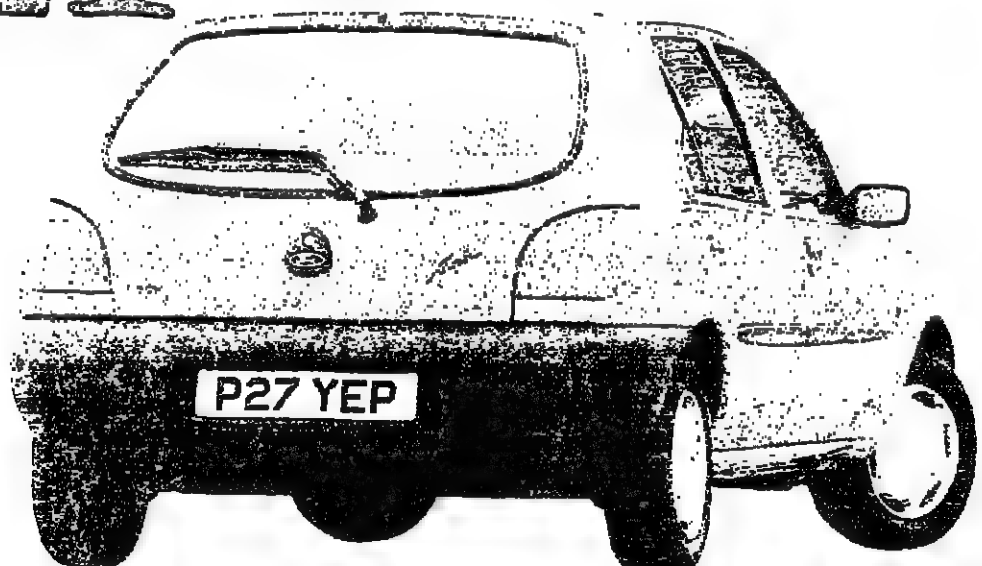
Prudential Banking plc is pleased to announce an increase in its 60 Day Notice Account interest rates as shown below. Customers can now make the first two withdrawals without incurring penalty free. The 60 Day Notice Account minimum opening balance for new customers is £2,500.

These changes take effect from Friday 13th June 1997. For further information phone 0800 000 222 or contact your Prudential representative.

60 Day Notice Account				
	Annual Rates (inc. treasury bonus)		Monthly Rates (inc. treasury bonus)	
Amount	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£2,500 +	4.35%	3.48%	4.27%	3.41%
£2,000 +	4.00%	3.13%	3.94%	3.07%
£1,000 +	3.65%	2.78%	3.59%	2.73%

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WHAT HAPPENED IN 1990



- FORD's Fiesta becomes the bestselling car in the UK
- Keelson Mandela was freed from prison
- The official sale of personalised registration plates took off
- The Budget was televised in Britain for the first time
- Poli Tax nets took place in Trafalgar Square, London

FORD'S 21 YEARS



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FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997
BUSINESS ROUNDUP
bo Group accepts
m American bid
plan for Seagate
James advances
expands in US
fish buoy
Knocks II
Dining
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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%
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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997

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■ LITERATURE
A "bold, brilliant and controversial" new edition of *Ulysses* has enraged James Joyce's heirs



■ MUSIC 1
In Cardiff Mark Wigglesworth conducts a programme of gripping new music

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 2
Pianists galore: delicacy and subtlety from Perahia; sheer sensationalism from Pogorelich



■ RADIO
Tim Pigott-Smith and Roger Allam star in a superb version of *The Man in the Elephant Mask*

The battle of Bloomsday

A new 'reader's edition' of *Ulysses* has caused a scholarly row and angered James Joyce's grandson. Nicolette Jones reports

It seems a brilliant and unobjectionable idea: a new, reader-friendly edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses* — a "people's *Ulysses*" — that rectifies thousands of mistakes for the first time, and also adds a wheelbarrow's-worth of clarifying punctuation. Surely the book's many devotees around the world, who on Monday will be celebrating the 75th annual "Bloomsday" in various exotic ways, could only be delighted.

Not entirely, it seems. In some quarters Danis Rose's new Picador edition has been greeted with dismay. The *London Review of Books*, for instance, concludes a scathing review by asserting that "his edition, if it can be called that, is a chastening example of how an excess of piety can turn into self-aggrandising fantasy".

Nobody has ever published an edition of *Ulysses* — Joyce's epic chronicle of a single day in the Dublin life of Leopold Bloom — that is free of mistakes. This is largely because the first typesetters in Paris in 1922 were working in a foreign language, and because every subsequent attempt to remove misprints simultaneously added more. And also because the book is so dense with wordplay that it is hard to tell if an obscenity is intended or not.

Rose, however, believes that Joyce always strove to be clear and accurate. Errors that have delighted academics with their opportunities for chasing reverberations were sometimes not only unintended but also against the book's spirit. "Joyce was the most careful of authors," Rose says. "He went to infinite pains to clarify, to make things accurate and transparent. He didn't want fuzziness or imprecision in his own use of language." Rose has therefore edited *Ulysses* to read clearly, backing up each alteration with comparison of all available versions, but always choosing the "common-sense" option.

"This edition is an attempt to

make *Ulysses* make sense from start to finish," says Rose. He has, he says, corrected flaws any copy-editor might, that "would impede readers, and make them search for subtleties that weren't intended. This frees them to search for subtleties that do exist."

Out of 250,000 words in the book, he estimates that he has made between 8,000 and 10,000 changes. His edition is published with the subtitle "A Reader's Edition" to emphasise his assertion that he has sought simplicity over scholarly obfuscation. He wants a book that

"This edition is an attempt to make *Ulysses* make sense"

has become too much the preserve of academics to find a large readership again, and to be recognised as fun rather than difficult.

What's more, for the first time the Irish will have a chance to find out what good crack it is from their own edition. Picador is publishing Rose's text in conjunction with Lilliput Press in Dublin. *Ulysses*, after all its voyages, has come home.

So why isn't everyone raising a glass of Guinness? First, the Joyce estate — in the person of Joyce's grandson Stephen Joyce — is not happy. Letters have been sent by lawyers expressing concern about Rose's alterations, especially in the light of Picador's advertising, which describes the edition — worryingly to them — as "bold, brilliant, controversial". The estate doesn't want the text unduly tampered with. This is despite the fact that Stephen Joyce himself has a reputation in the

Joyce community for regarding his grandfather as simple, accessible and enjoyable, and for being opposed to what he considers as self-serving kinds of scholarship.

Rose, who is not an academic but an Irishman who has loved and lived with Joyce for a lifetime, working on Joyce texts since 1977, might be expected to be a friend of the estate. In fact he has a history of legal conflict with it. Two projects of his have been barred: a critical edition of *Finnegans Wake*, and a novel by Joyce he calls *Finn's Hotel* and claims was written between *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* (the estate argues that it was merely work-in-progress for *Wake*).

Nor is Rose a stranger to academic conflict. He had a hand in a 1984 edition of *Ulysses* by Hans Walter Gabler, acclaimed by many but denounced by an academic, John Kidd, who accused Gabler of sins ranging from misunderstanding Joyce's compositional process to copyright machinations.

Rose says he has made use of some findings of Gabler's edition while avoiding its pitfalls. The estate originally sanctioned that edition, but authority then lay with Stephen Joyce's Aunt Lucia, who has since died. Stephen later sided against it.

This time, though, it may not matter what Stephen thinks. Copyright law has seen to that. On January 1, 1992, Joyce came out of copyright, 50 years after his death, so anyone could publish him without the estate's approval and without paying royalties. Three years later, however, British law came into line with an EU directive that extended copyright to 70 years after an author's death. Joyce is thus back in copyright. But to avoid injustice the new law specifies that work that was on its way to publication between the expiry and reinstatement of copyright could go ahead. Rose's work was contracted and largely



carried out during this time. The interregnum may give Rose further freedoms. "I have counsel's advice," he says, "that I could now bring out my edition of *Finnegans Wake* for the same reason." He believes, moreover, that his current circumstances set an important precedent, since there can be objecting descendants in any academic sphere, and their powers of censorship are destructive.

"The estate is trying to stop the

legitimate publication of a book. You have to say no to that as firmly as possible. I don't think estates should have the right to prevent genuine scholarship, even to withhold documents, as they often do. Scholarship is openness. If Stephen Joyce wins, this puts an end to research across the board."

Meanwhile, the Joyce scholars are starting to pass judgment on Rose. Some will undoubtedly side with the *London Review of Books*

and castigate him for making so many changes on "insight". By the year 2000, when the International Joyce Foundation (which usually convenes in Dublin or Paris) meets for the first time in London, the dispute could have grown to schismatic dimensions. But it will be a further 12 years before anyone else can make free with the text without Stephen Joyce's blessing.

● *Ulysses*, edited by Danis Rose, is published by Picador (£20) next week

Freak feelings on show

An actor of considerable distinction once told me at a BBC party that the reason summer radio was not as filled with drama repeats as summer television was that the pay in radio is so paltry. He reckoned that it cost the BBC little more to put out a new drama than it paid in residuals to put out an old one.

The remark was both affectionate and disingenuous, for even on the wireless new drama is expensive. Nevertheless, there have been several good, and newly-minted drama this week, the pick of them being part one of *The Man in the Elephant Mask* (Radio 4, Monday). The concluding part is next Monday. My only complaint about this production was that it was transmitted in the afternoon and on FM only.

The story of John Merrick, the so-called Elephant Man, is familiar. There has been a television version and a film,

directed by David Lynch. But this radio version is by far the most engaging, partly because it delves much more into Merrick's childhood.

There is a less comfortable reason for preferring this new radio adaptation. Merrick's disfigurement is seen as a huge challenge to make-up artists, with the result that the face becomes irresistibly horrific. However much one tries to absorb the story, the image is all-consuming.

I had not realised how much this could detract from the real story of Merrick's tragic life. But with the visual image removed, the focus switches to what happened to Merrick rather than how he looked. The performances are outstanding, especially Roger Allam as Merrick and Tim Pigott-Smith as Frederick Treves, the surgeon who rescues Merrick from the freak shows (featured in part two of the story). But in drama everything depends on the writing, and here is where *The Man in the Elephant Mask* scores heavily.

Peter Wolf wrote the play and, as a long-time sufferer from ME, he comes at the subject from an interesting perspective. He has some of the same symptoms as Merrick, including bone distortion. This sense of fellow feeling comes across strongly. But the thing that also distinguishes Wolf's script from others, particularly the film version, is that Wolf portrays Treves as an exploiter of Merrick. Treves uses him for experimentation — and indeed for showing off to the upper ranks of society — as surely as others had used him in freak shows.

Which leaves less than the desirable amount of space to mention Fatherland, Robert Harris's detective story, set around the consequences of Hitler having won the war (Radio 4, Monday). A huge novel condensed to two hours of radio is a risky project, but John Dryden, who wrote and directed, has pulled it off.

PETER BARNARD

Theatre reviews appear on page 36 today

CONCERTS: Two pianists in London poles apart; plus three fine orchestral pieces in Wales

Opposite ends of the keyboard

INITIAL capitals apart, there is little in common between the pianists Pogorelich, Pletnev and Perahia. Murray Perahia, giving a solo recital on Wednesday night at the Festival Hall, was his usual calm, restrained, unaffected self. Ivo Pogorelich, on the other hand, playing the Tchaikovsky First Concerto on Tuesday night, is big-boned, rhetorical, wilful, self-indulgent. Mikhail Pletnev (here on the podium) and Pogorelich apparently enjoy working together, but their approach to music-making is poles apart.

Pogorelich's account of the Tchaikovsky was the most extraordinary I have ever heard. His thunderous left hand crashed down the keyboard, the right making a fist in order to maximise the volume — not a pleasant sound. Elsewhere, in "poetic" mode, he rhaphisoided in a world of his own, oblivious to the structure of the work. Familiar phrases came out so distorted that they were no longer recognisable. This is one way of dealing with hackneyed warhorses, but it does the music few favours.

Tchaikovsky's music is more cohesive than he is often given credit for. But it can scarcely withstand such manipulation: pull the fabric too loose and it begins to unravel. At such moments Pogorelich's playing becomes a caricature of the original. The tragedy is that he is also capable of the most beautiful and sensitive things. Having pounded heavily-handedly down the keyboard in double octaves, he suddenly ripples up it again with a touch of featherweight delicacy.

Pletnev, for his part, could do little to restrain or counter these excesses. But in Sibelius's Second Symphony he showed far more effectively than two nights previously in the same hall what he was capable of. In that earlier concert, his Brahms had seemed under-characterised to the point of facelessness.



Ivo Pogorelich: tinkering with Tchaikovsky

His Sibelius, however, had all the inner tension and strength of a great performance. Well-balanced textures, perfectly controlled climaxes to which the Philharmonia responded with committed playing: this was remarkable music-making.

Perahia's recital offered an interesting programme that largely avoided warhorses. In addition to a Handel Suite (No 3 in D Minor) — a welcome change from the statutory Bach — he gave Schumann's Sonata No 1 in F Sharp Minor and Mendelssohn's Fantasia in the same key, proving a persuasive advocate of both. But it was a group of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words* that really gave Perahia the opportunity to produce a range of colours that brought each lyrical effusion vividly to life. Chopin has long been one of Perahia's particular strengths, and after bringing his supremely delicate touch to bear on a serene account of the Berceuse in D Flat, he ended with a dazzling performance of the Scherzo No 1 in B Minor, displaying the kind of all-round mastery that has earned him the reputation of the complete pianist.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ANY one of the three pieces introduced by Mark Wigglesworth and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in their latest "Now Hear This" concert in Cardiff would have made the enterprise worth while. Inevitably, every member of the audience in St David's Hall would have had a favourite — the conservatives opting for John Pickard's Third Symphony, the progressives for Unsuk Chin's Piano Concerto, the moderates for David Sawer's *The Greatest Happiness Principle* — but they would also have acknowledged that each was good of its kind.

The order in which the three pieces were performed was determined, presumably, by the amount of scene-shifting they required. Unsuk Chin's score, for example, has a layout entirely its own and an array of percussion instruments so extensive that it takes ages to put them in place and the length of an interval to clear them away. So the Piano Concerto occupied the whole of the first half, the fleeting sonorities of its first movement taking the ear by surprise.

Elusiveness is, however, an essential element in a work which derives its poetry partly

Three of the best

BBC NOW/
Wigglesworth
Cardiff

from the oriental background of the composer — she was born in Korea in 1961 — and partly from her experience in Western electronic studios.

The work is not entirely separate from the concerto tradition: Bartók is a significant influence, most clearly in both the construction and the sounds of the second of the four movements. But in rejecting the high-profile solo part of the traditional concerto and integrating the piano so discreetly with the orchestra, making it part of that exotic percussive section for much of the time, Chin has created something intriguingly different. If she also created ensemble problems for the soloist

and the conductor, Rolf Hind and Wigglesworth were evidently not too troubled by them in their exceptionally well organised and beautifully coloured first performance. For those who preferred something less elusive and more obviously substantial, there was the heavyweight Third Symphony of John Pickard, whose symphonic ethos owes nothing to anyone later than Sibelius, it seems, and who is clearly proud to recall that composer at the climactic point of his four-movement epic of conflict and reconciliation.

The greatest happiness for the greatest number of people, however, might well have been provided by David Sawer's *The Greatest Happiness Principle*. Looking to Jeremy Bentham for inspiration, Sawer found it in his parable prison, the circular construction of which is reflected in a brilliantly witty cycle of short, interconnected sections of lyricism and aggression ending in a kind of orchestral riot. Sounding quite British in conception, it is no less original in place for that — as the BBC Prom audience can confirm later in the summer.

GERALD LARNER

Martyrs superior

OPERA
Poliuto
Queen Elizabeth Hall

ring and that is number one requirement for Poliuto. Any tenor engaged was likely to be outshone by Penelope Walton-Clark as his wife, Paolina. Her Verdi with Scottish Opera has been justly admired and her Donizetti has equal quality. Here is a true dramatic soprano coupled with all the brilliance needed to cope with Donizetti's dazzling vocal runs.

COG was less successful elsewhere. Roberto Salvatori was disappointingly unsteady as Severo, Paolina's former lover who tries to keep the Christian tide at bay. Henry Waddington as the obligatory High Priest showed a warm bass, but was a lightweight. The young Australian conductor, Brad Cohen, drew some passionate playing from his orchestra. The chorus was less impressive: plenty of gusto, but muddy sound and poor articulation.

JOHN HIGGINS

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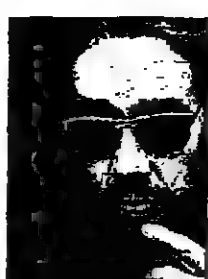
Greg Hicks
Alan Howard
Ben Kingsley
Denis Quilley

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Sat 21 June 2.30 & 7.30
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POP 5

Masterpiece of disaffection: Radiohead's angry new album is the authentic voice of protest



POP 6

... but Karl Wallinger's latest careworn songs suggest that the World Party may be over



POP 7

Wu-Tang Clan say they have seen the future of rap ... and it's the last word in monotony



POP 8

Curtis Mayfield's songs for the Fascinations are collected on a new album, *Out to Getcha!*

Radiohead's Thom Yorke looked around, saw what a mess we're in, wrote about it on an album called *OK Computer*...

It's true, things can only get better

To make music for the next century — what a beautiful thought. Futurism has been sold short: the city of the 21st century is feared as a polluted megalopolis, crowded with steel-eyed robot-people, protein pills and a near-rioting underclass. Humanity will be something weak and frail, slowly strangled by tangles of buzzing wires and irradiated by nuclear television and plutonium-driven satellites. Misapplied technology will cauterise our souls and crush anything that does not bring a financial profit, like love, friendship, community and happiness. The future is brushed-chrome and ruthless. Multinationals dictate policy to countries, food is plastic and cancer-causing, and we pay to drink the rain.

But the fearful truth is that this is the 20th century, not the 21st. Anyone in love with humanity is currently in mourning for the present, watching it becoming infected by takeover burgers, superpills, shivering, oiled Page Three misses and strip-neon megamalls. Anyone who even semi-understands the political and economic workings of the Western world longs to turn away, furious and hungry for change, and determined to ramraid the untouched future in search of hope.

It is this disgust, tempered with a belief that every emotional extreme can lead to release and redemption, and that a kicking tune can save the world, that Radiohead have laid out in their new album, *OK Computer*.

"A lot of it's about disaffection," Thom Yorke, Radiohead's lead singer, explains. His blond scrub of hair has been shorn and dyed dark brown, but he looks, as described in one of his lyrics, "fitter, happier and more productive". "I switch on

the TV, and there's all these ironies and fridges coming at you. Watching a Tory MP electioneering, cheering wildly when someone threw eggs at him, but feeling I'd seen this once too often."

Yorke tugs what remains of his hair. "Economics. They fascinate me. Economics are the 20th century's greatest myth. There's been a lot of looking at headlines and feeling wildly impotent. Electioneering [one of the tracks on the album] is an incitement to riot."

Yorke's anger is palpable on *OK Computer*. The first single, *Paranoid Android*, has him growling that "Ambition makes you look pretty ugly/ Kicking squealing Gucci little piggy." Even though *Android* is six-and-a-half minutes of tempo-changes, mournful, choral middle-eights and awkwardly angular guitars, it still went into the charts at No 3, confirming that Radiohead are now "shifting units" quicker than an army of removal men.

Radiohead's previous album, *The Bends*, was a benchmark in modern pop/rock. Before its release, music had painted itself into a corner. Songwriters tackling "big" subjects believed they had to prove they meant it, man, by being dysfunctional and on the brink of collapse (Manic Street Preachers, Nirvana). Anyone not on the edge of a nervous breakdown was left with two options: happy pop, or the knowing wink of kitsch and irony (almost every British band in 1994). *The Bends*, however, reintroduced intimacy, doubt, panic, anger and comfort, all written, played and sung by men who were stable and articulate.

Although it took nearly a year for word-of-mouth to do the rounds, *The Bends* became a lodestone for those searching for music that was aspirational and inspirational,



Economics with the truth: Radiohead's new album, *OK Computer*, takes all of their disenchantment and wraps it up into the first great album of the 21st century

gaining Album of the Year bouquets and a slew of imitators in its wake.

Work on *OK Computer* began in a near-deserted valley outside Bath. Frankly, your jaw will drop to the floor and fracture when you hear it. *Airbag* — FM rock chopped up with DJ Shadow beats and glorious whoops of "In an interstellar burst/I am back to save the universe!" — and *Karma Police* (a *White Album* piano-roll which schizophrenically changes horses halfway through) keep up the pop quota. Elsewhere, *Subterranean Homesick Alien* and *The Tourist* sound like symphonic revelations, full of 3am haziness, and longing for the cool womb of space.

On all the other tracks, however,

there's a claustrophobia that flickers and burns; spectral pressure that bends the metallic guitar-lines into wrought iron. "There was a very odd presence in the house we were recording in," Yorke says, his eyes carefully neutral. "I just didn't sleep at all. I started seeing things, hearing things. There was a very claustrophobic ghost in the house ... I mean, we made jokes about it, but there was fear everywhere, coming out of the walls and floors. It took me by the ankles and shook me until there was nothing left." He laughs. "There was really horrible wallpaper in my room. Maybe it was just that and my imagination."

Bands are usually consuming enormous quantities of drugs when they make albums as vast and kinetically charged as this. "We got quite drunk," Johnny Greenwood,

"You don't need drugs to make extreme music," Yorke chides. "Just reading the papers makes you feel extreme. *Climbing Up The Walls*. For instance, I used to work in a mental hospital around the time the Government was getting passionate about Care in the Community, and everyone just knew what was going to happen. It was one of the scariest things that ever happened in this country, because a lot of them weren't harmless. It's like those huge 18th-century paintings — if you get really close to them, you can see these little figures in the corners, these amorphous little monsters. And that's what some

big towns are like now: the shadows contain amorphous little monsters."

"I think we have reached a peak here," Greenwood says later. "I sometimes find it hard to imagine we'll do anything better. Most bands start going rubbish around their fourth album, don't they?"

Even if his pessimistic prediction is true, Radiohead have left behind a back catalogue that soars and burns where others were content to plod through the 1990s. *OK Computer* sounds like sanity in a time when every other piece of news makes you want to shout "Stop the madness!" It's as heroic as Roger Ramjet trying to save the world with his bare hands. It's the first album of the 21st century.

‘You don't need drugs to make extreme music. Just reading the papers makes you feel extreme’

Radiohead's supernaturally gifted guitarist, offers. "Well, the others did. I only ever got drunk on New Year's Eve, and I'm awful around drugs. Anything that messes with my brain is a ferociously bad idea."

... and a gobsmacked David Sinclair can scarce forbear to cheer the result

Modem life is rubbish

RADIOHEAD
OK Computer
(Parlophone 7243 8 55229 £13.99)
THEIR previous record, *The Bends*, remains one of the landmark albums of the 1990s. But Radiohead have surpassed even that masterpiece with *OK Computer*.
An immensely powerful yet acutely sensitive evocation of millennium blues, it takes the classic theme of alienation and sets it in a present-day context defined by lurking fear of technology and a morbid fascination in the X-Files culture of the unexplained.
Thom Yorke sounds a lot like Bono, especially on *Let Down*, where, accompanied by a gorgeous crystalline guitar riff, he sings of being "Crushed like a bug in the ground". But in drawing such comparisons, you would have to say that *OK Computer* is the kind of album that U2 is no longer capable of making. There is no self-conscious search here for some naff dance/rock interface, nor any notion of a jaded musical palate in need of fresh thrills. Far from being secure and successful enough to cocoon his feelings in layers of irony and worldly wit, Yorke still paints a portrait of an artist dangerously near the end of his emotional tether.
On the spooky *Exit Music (For a Film)* his high, almost-falsetto voice is heard pleading, cracking, begging, choking on a lyric full of malevolent despair. "Please could you stop the noise?/I'm tryin' to get some rest/From all

POP ALBUMS

the unbornchickvoices in my head," he sings in *Paranoid Android*, the epic single that has threatened to reawaken the slumbering giant of 1970s progressive rock.
If all this sounds like rather a dour experience, it isn't. The musicianship, especially the angular guitar playing of Jonny Greenwood, is breathtaking throughout, and the five-way songwriting credit on all songs speaks volumes. From the aggression of *Electioneering* ("Castle prods and the IMF/I trust I can rely on your vote") to the lilting desperation of *Lucky* ("I feel my luck could change"), *OK Computer* is an album of wondrous sadness and uplifting beauty.

all the songs on *Egyptology* with the help of drummer Chris Sharrock and hardly anyone else.
The tunes are every bit as charming as before, if a little predictable, while Wallinger's lyrics have moved away from the green-tinged hippie preoccupations that characterised previous albums such as *Bang!* and *Goodbye Jumbo*, in favour of a more personal/emotional style of writing. "You look around and you're just getting older," he sings in *Beautiful Dream*, one of several songs that have a rather careworn feel.
A thoughtful if cautiously assembled piece of work, *Egyptology* only really comes to life when Wallinger chances his arm on something a bit different, notably the spooky *Vanity Fair*, the aptly named *Strange Groove* and the astringent, Dylanesque *Curse of the Manning's Tomb*.

added certain spicy elements to their image, particularly in the video for the tremendous single *Whatever*, any pretensions towards "girl power" are a supplement rather than a substitute for vocal power.
Despite a fair bit of filler towards the end of the album, and a typically superficial Diane Warren number called *Too Gone, Too Long*, there are some great moments here. *Right Direction* is a wonderfully rootsy funk track with slide acoustic guitar instead of the usual synths, and *Let It Flow* is an immaculate old-fashioned R&B groove. Throw in their massively successful hit, *Don't Let Go (Love)*, and this is their strongest album yet.

WU-TANG CLAN
Wu-Tang Forever
(RCA 7432145/682; two discs £16.99)
AN ALBUM hailed as the future of rap, no less, *Wu-Tang Forever* is the second offering from the scowling nine-piece from Staten Island. Although not as gratuitously offensive as the mixture of violence and misogyny peddled by Snoop Doggy Dogg, Ice-T et al, the Clan's rhymes tend to be strongly worded, but often nonsensical stream-of-consciousness rants on subjects ranging from their own fighting prowess ("Yo, these hands is flooded and they mad quick") to having a nice shower at the end of the day ("Motion lotion, breeze over the ocean/Lovers, bath crystals, lovers, bun scrubbers").

Musically, though, the monotony is pretty much absolute, apart from a bizarre version of *MacArthur Park* masquerading as *Second Coming*. If this is the future of rap, it is time to roll the credits.

WORLD PARTY

Egyptology
(Chrysalis 7243 8 56482 £13.99)
WHAT with Paul McCartney enjoying his best worldwide album sales since the days of Wings, and Oasis firmly installed as official keepers of the Beatles flame, is there still a need for the beat-era pop revivalism of World Party?

No longer a group in any meaningful sense of the word, World Party is now solely a flag of convenience for Karl Wallinger, who played, recorded, wrote and produced

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (12) *Timeless* Sarah Brightman (Coastal)
- (7) *Before the Rain* Eternal (EMI)
- (3) *Spice* Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (1) *Open Road* Gary Barlow (RCA)
- (5) *Always on My Mind* Elvis Presley (RCA)
- (2) *Do It Yourself* Schenker (Geffen)
- (26) *The Best of* Bob Dylan (Columbia)
- (4) *Wu-Tang Forever* Wu-Tang Clan (RCA)
- (10) *Republics* Republics (Deconstruction)
- (1) *Middle of Nowhere* Hanson (Mercury)

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

Unsung heroics

SOUL ALBUMS

Our Love Is in the Pocket remain great records. Sadly, Banks was never able to capitalise on his success. He unwisely drew a gun on an off-duty policeman and died with a bullet in his neck in 1970.

Finally, there is due recognition for the first white act ever to open for James Brown. The seven-strong Casinos were a Cincinnati vocal group who turned a John D. Loudermilk song, *Then You Can Tell Me*

Goodbye, into the blue-eyed soul hit of 1967. They continued their rhythm and blues feel with cuts like *I'm So Proud* (which remained unissued at the time), but never achieved lasting success. The Best of the Casinos (Varèse Sarabande VSD-5706) may mark only a footnote in the history of rock, but it's a fascinating one.

JOHN CLARKE

'Bringing Down The Horse'
the multi-million selling Top 5 US album.
Featuring
'One Headlight' & '6th Avenue Heartache'

Out Now
£10.49 CD • £6.99 MC

Special price subject to availability at participating stores

Law Report June 13 1997 House of Lords

Employee can recover stigma damages from dishonest employer

Malik and Another v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (in compulsory liquidation)

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Mustill, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Steyn

[Speeches June 12]

Subject to issues of causation, mitigation and remoteness, an employee might, in principle, recover damages for financial loss stemming from a loss of reputation caused by breach of the employer's implied obligation not, without reasonable and proper cause, to conduct itself in a manner likely to destroy or seriously damage the relationship of confidence and trust between employer and employee.

Recoverable damages might, in appropriate circumstances, include financial loss resulting from the employee's impaired future employment prospects which had been adversely affected by the employer's breach of the implied trust and confidence term.

The House of Lords held allowing appeals by Mr Quaiser Mansoor Malik and Mr Raihan Nasir Mahmud, former employees of Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, from the Court of Appeal (The Times April 12, 1995; sub nom *Malik v BCCI SA* [1996] ICR 406) who dismissed their claims for damages for financial loss resulting from the bank's liquidation and sought to prove damages in the winding up of the bank were not entitled to recover damages for injury to their reputations allegedly caused by the bank conducting a dishonest or corrupt business.

Mr Eddred Tabachnik, QC and Mr Andrew B. Stafford for the employees; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Christopher Jeays for the bank.

LORD NICHOLLS said that for the purpose of the preliminary issue it was assumed that the bank operated in a corrupt and dishonest manner, that the employees were innocent of any involvement, that following the collapse of the bank its corruption and dishonesty became widely known, that in consequence the employees were at a handicap on the labour market because they were stigmatised by reason of their previous employment and suffered loss in consequence.

The parties were agreed that the contracts of employment of the employees each contained an implied term that the bank would not, without reasonable and proper cause, conduct itself in a manner likely to destroy or seriously damage the relationship of confidence and trust between employer and employee.

The submissions raised an important question on the damages recoverable for breach of the implied term, with particular reference to *Adis v Crampophore Co Ltd* [1990] AC 483 and *Withers v General Television Corporation Ltd* [1993] 2 KB 536.

On the assumed facts, the case was not one where one or two individuals, however senior, were behaving dishonestly; this was a dishonest business, a corrupt business. When an innocent employee, whatever his status, learned the true nature of the bank's business, he was entitled to leave at once. No one could be expected to have to continue to work with and for such a company against his wish.

The entitlement to leave at once derived from the bank being in breach of a term of the contract of

employment which the employee was entitled to treat as a repudiation by the bank of its contractual obligations.

In other words, the bank was under an implied obligation to its employees not to conduct a dishonest or corrupt business. That was no more than one aspect of the general obligation not to engage in conduct likely to undermine the trust and confidence required if the employment relationship was to continue in the manner the contract impliedly envisaged.

The conduct complained of did not have to be targeted at the employee or a group of employees, although the conduct had to impinge on the relationship in the sense that, looked at objectively, it was likely to destroy or seriously damage the degree of trust and confidence the employee was reasonably entitled to have in his employer. That required one to look at all the circumstances.

A breach occurred when the prescribed conduct took place here, operating a dishonest and corrupt business. The employee was reasonably entitled to have in his employer, that required one to look at all the circumstances.

The employee might treat the bank's conduct as a repudiatory breach entitling him to leave. He was not compelled to leave. He might choose to stay. Whether staying would amount to a waiver of the breach for all purposes depended on the circumstances.

If the employee did not discover the facts while his employment was continuing, repudiation was not open to him, but that did not mean he had no remedy. In the ordinary case, breach of a contractual term entitled the innocent party to damages.

Of the many forms which trust-damaging conduct might take, some might have continuing adverse financial effects on an employee even after his employment had ceased. In such a case the fact that the employee learned of the employer's conduct after his employment had ended should not, in principle, be a bar to recovery. If it were otherwise, an employer who concealed a breach would be better placed than an employer who did not.

If the employee committed a breach of the term came to an end prematurely, the employee lost the benefits he should have received had the contract run its course. Prima facie, and subject always to established principles of mitigation and so forth, the dismissed employee could recover damages to compensate him for those promised benefits lost to him in consequence of the premature termination of the contract.

Premature termination losses could not be attributable to a breach of the trust and confidence term if the contract was terminated for other reasons, for instance, for redundancy, as in the present case, or if the employee left of his own volition.

Exceptionally, however, the losses suffered by an employee as a result of a breach of the trust and confidence term might not consist of, or be confined to, loss of pay and other premature termination losses. An employee might find himself worse off financially than when he entered into the contract, for example, conduct in breach of the trust and confidence term, which prejudicially affected an employee's future employment prospects. The conduct might diminish the employee's attractiveness to future employers.

The loss in the present case was of that character. Were such con-

tinuing financial losses recoverable for breach of the trust and confidence term? If it was reasonably foreseeable that a particular type of loss of that character was a serious possibility, and loss of that type was sustained in consequence of a breach, then in principle damages in respect of the loss ought to be recoverable.

In the present case, the absence of agreed facts as to whether the employees' handicap in the labour market was reasonably foreseeable by the bank, was not a sufficient reason for refusing to permit the former employees' claims to proceed further.

The contrary argument of principle was that the losses recoverable ought to be confined to the premature termination losses. That was an unacceptable narrow evaluation of the trust and confidence term. Employers might be under no common law obligation through the medium of an implied contractual term of general application, to take steps to improve their employees' future job prospects. But failure to improve was a thing, positively to damage was another.

An employment contract created a close personal relationship, where there was often a disparity of power between the parties. Frequently the employee was vulnerable.

Although the underlying purpose of the trust and confidence term was to protect the employment relationship, there could be nothing unfairly onerous or unreasonable in requiring an employer who breached the trust and confidence term to be liable if he thereby caused reasonably foreseeable continuing financial loss.

Employers had to take care not to damage their employees' future employment prospects by harsh treatment or by any other conduct which was

unacceptable today as falling below the standards set by the implied trust and confidence term. That approach brought one face to face with the wrongful dismissal case, *Adis*.

An employee might elect to treat a sufficiently serious breach of the trust and confidence term as discharging him from the contract and, hence, as a constructive dismissal. The damages in such a case ought, in principle, to be the same as if the employer had expressly dismissed the employee.

So far as the recoverability of continuing financial losses were concerned, in principle there was no basis for distinguishing (a) wrongful dismissal following a breach of the trust and confidence term, (b) constructive dismissal following such a breach and (c) a breach of the term which only became known after the contract had ended for other reasons.

The present case was in the last category, but a principled answer could not be given for cases in category (c) without considering the other categories, from which it was indistinguishable.

Adis was generally regarded as having decided that an employee could not recover damages for the loss of reputation and the loss of future employment prospects by reason of a breach of the implied term of confidence and trust, for any loss he might sustain from the fact that his having been dismissed of itself made it more difficult for him to obtain fresh employment.

In particular, *Adis* was generally understood to have decided that any loss suffered by the adverse impact on the employee's chances of obtaining alternative employment was to be excluded from an assessment of damages for wrongful dismissal.

His Lordship was not concerned with the exclusion of damages for injured feelings. The present case

was concerned only with financial loss.

The observations of Lord Lorde, Lord Chancellor, in *Adis* were framed in quite general terms and he expressly disavowed the suggestion of Lord Coleridge, Chief Justice, in *Howe v Jones* [1890] 25 QBD 107, 108, to the effect that an assessment of damages might take into account the greater difficulty which an apprentice dismissed with a slur on his character might have in obtaining other employment. Similarly, general observations were made by the other law lords in *Adis*.

Those observations could not be read as precluding the recovery of damages where the manner of the dismissal involved a breach of the trust and confidence term and that caused financial loss.

Adis was decided before the implied term was understood. Now that the term existed and was normally implied in every contract of employment, damages for its breach ought to be assessed in accordance with ordinary contractual principles. That was as much true if the breach occurred before or in connection with the dismissal as at any other time.

The liquidators submitted that injury to reputation was protected by the law of defamation and that the boundaries set by the tort of defamation were not to be sidestepped by allowing a claim in contract that would not succeed in defamation. That submission was misconceived.

His Lordship agreed that the cause of the action known to the law in respect of injury to reputation was the tort of defamation, which provided a remedy whether or not the injury caused financial loss. If the plaintiff did in fact suffer financial loss, it might be recoverable in a defamation action as special damages.

It by no means followed, however, that financial loss recoverable as special damages in defamation was irrecoverable as damages for breach of contract. Furthermore, the fact that the breach of contract injured the plaintiff's reputation, where no claim for defamation would lie was not, by itself, a reason for excluding from the damages recoverable for breach of contract compensation for financial loss which on ordinary principles would be recoverable.

The distinction between damage to reputation and financial loss was fundamentally sound and when awarding damages for breach of contract courts took care to confine the damages to their proper ambit making good financial loss.

The second submission concerning reputation was that the employees' claims for damages to their reputations were barred by *Withers*.

There was an acute conflict between that decision and *Marbe v George Edwards (Daly's Theatre Ltd)* [1928] 1 KB 369. In *Marbe* clear views were expressed by the Court of Appeal in an obiter dictum that a failure to provide promised publicity, the loss might include loss in existing reputation. In *Withers* equally clear views were firmly stated to the contrary by the three Court of Appeal judges.

His Lordship preferred the views expressed in *Marbe*. They accorded better with principle.

For those reasons the appeals would be allowed. The agreed set of assumed facts disclosed a good cause of action.

Lord Steyn delivered a concurring speech. Lord Lorde, Lord Mackay and Lord Mustill agreed. Solicitors: Manches & Co; Lowell White Durrant.

Bail ceases on surrender

Regina v Maldstone Crown Court, Ex parte Jodka

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Astill

[Judgment May 9]

Any bail granted by a magistrate's court ceased when a defendant surrendered himself to the custody of the crown court, whether at an arraignment or otherwise.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when refusing the first and allowing the second of two applications by Saunam Singh Jodka for judicial review of two decisions of Judge Croft at Maldstone Crown Court on August 27, 1996 and on November 22, 1996, to order forfeiture of £5,000 security paid into court and of £3,000 of the applicant's £5,000 security.

Justices had committed a defendant to the crown court on bail "until the case is disposed of" with conditions of security and a surety. The applicant was the surety for £5,000 and paid the £5,000 security on behalf of the defendant.

On arraignment at the crown court the judge did not reconsider the suitability of either of those conditions and ordered "bail as heretofore".

Mr Malcolm Fortune for the applicant; Mr David Calvert-Smith, QC, for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ASTILL said that the prosecution had submitted that the words "for trial" in section 6(3)(b) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 meant until the beginning of the trial, empowering justices to grant bail which lasted until a

defendant's trial had begun. His Lordship rejected that construction and interpreted the words as meaning "until the case is disposed of". The words of Lord Steyn in *R v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Gurney* [The Times May 10, 1996; [1996] AC 616, 622-623] clearly meant that at least at arraignment any bail granted by the justices ceased if the defendant surrendered himself to custody.

In his Lordship's judgment that applied to any appearance before the crown court where a defendant surrendered to custody. In saying "bail as heretofore" the judge had been making a new bail order.

On making a new bail order the judge was obliged to consider the position of a surety before imposing such a condition. Since he had not done so, the applicant's obligations as a surety had ceased when the defendant surrendered to custody on arraignment, and the forfeiture of the £3,000 was unlawful.

In ordering bail "as heretofore" the judge had included the security as a condition. There was no obligation on him to go further than invite representations from the defendant on the question of the security, which he had done.

There was also no obligation on a judge to make inquiries into the ability of a third party to pay a security when the obligation belonged only to the defendant.

Lord Justice Pill agreed.

Solicitors: Robin F. Clark & Co, Gravesend; Crown Prosecution Service, Maldstone.

Youth detention not akin to life sentence

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Venables

Regina v Same, Ex parte Thompson

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches June 12]

A sentence of detention during her Majesty's pleasure passed on a young offender under section 53(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, as substituted by section 1(5) of the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965, was not the same as a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment passed on an adult and required the Home Secretary to consider from time to time whether continued detention was justified.

An inflexible policy whereby a tariff set for a young offender regarding the minimum period of detention to be served by him by way of punishment and deterrence would be considered for release would in no circumstances be varied by reason of matters occurring subsequently to the offence was unlawful. In fixing the tariff period to be served by him by way of punishment and deterrence, the Home Secretary was to take account of the public interest as expressed in the media.

The House of Lords (Lord Goff and Lord Lloyd dissenting) allowed cross-appeals by the applicants, Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, and Lord Lloyd dissenting) dismissed an appeal by the Home Secretary from the Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Morritt) [The Times August 7, 1996; [1996] 2 WLR 87], who had dismissed an appeal by the Home Secretary and cross-appeals by the applicants from the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Newman) [The Times May 7, 1996].

Section 53, as substituted, provided: "A person... under the age of 18 years at the time the offence was committed shall not, if he is convicted of murder, be sentenced to imprisonment for life... but in lieu thereof the court shall... sentence him to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure."

Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the Home Secretary; Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Ben Emmerson for Venables; Mr Brian Higgs, QC and Mr Julian Nutter for Thompson.

LORD GOFF said that in November 1993 the applicants had been convicted of the murder of James Bulger, aged two, in February, when they had been 10½ years old. The judge had described the killing as "an act of unparalleled evil and barbarity".

In his report to the Home Secretary the judge had said that if the applicants had been adults the actual length of detention necessary to meet the requirements of retribution and general deterrence should have been 18 years. Taking into account the appalling circumstances of the murder and the applicants' age when it had been committed the appropriate length was eight years: "very very many years" for a 10 or 11-year-old.

Lord Taylor, Lord Chief Justice, had advised that the period should be 10 years.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that it had been made clear to their Lordships both from the evidence and in submissions that in making any change to the tariff period initially fixed, the Home Secretary would only have regard to matters relevant to the circumstances of the commission of the offence or the applicant's state of mind when it had been committed. He would not in any circumstances vary the period by reason of events occurring after the commission of the crime.

Section 44 of the 1933 Act provided: "(1) Every court in dealing with the child or young person... shall have regard to the welfare of the child or young person."

That was the basis of the principle applicable to dealing with child offenders. The Home Secretary at all times had to be free to take into account as one of the relevant factors the welfare of the child and the desirability of reintegrating him into society.

The extent to which that was possible must depend, in the case of a young child at least, on the way in which that child was maturing through his formative years.

Liability pending licence transfer

Westminster City Council v Mackay

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Astill

[Judgment May 15]

Where an entertainment licence was deemed to remain in force beyond its expiry date pending determination of an application to transfer the licence, pursuant to paragraph 6B of Schedule 12 to the London Government Act 1968, the licence was not thereby transferred to the applicant but was retained by the licence holder until the application for transfer was determined.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an appeal by Westminster City Council by way of case stated from the Northampton County Court (Judge Fingert and Justices) which had granted an appeal by James Ronald Mackay from his conviction by Northampton Road Justices for contravening a term of an entertainment licence contrary to paragraph 10(2)(a) of Schedule 12 to the 1968 Act.

Mr John McGuinness for the council; Mr Michael Bromley-Martin for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE ASTILL said that an entertainment licence had been granted under paragraph 1 of Schedule 12 to the 1968 Act, in respect of premises in Soho. The defendant applied to the council to have the licence transferred to himself, but before the application

Liability pending licence transfer

could be determined, the licence expired.

Under paragraph 6B of Schedule 12, as inserted by section 4 of the 1978 Act and as amended by section 43 of and Schedule 1 to the Fire Safety and Places of Sport Act 1987, in such circumstances "the licence shall be deemed to remain in force (with any necessary modifications) ... until the determination of the application..."

Following the application certain breaches of the licence occurred and the defendant was charged in relation to those.

The council had argued that the words "with any necessary modifications" in paragraph 6B meant that the applicant for transfer was deemed to be the holder of the licence, and therefore the defendant should be responsible.

In his Lordship's judgment, that would have been a specific deeming provision if the paragraph was intended to transfer responsibilities on to an applicant for transfer of the licence.

Although it was not clear exactly what the words in paragraph 6B did mean, the Lordship was satisfied that they did not carry the meaning contended for by the council.

The responsibilities under the licence remained on the person who was appointed as holder when the licence was granted.

Lord Justice Pill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Colin T. Wilson, Westminster; Jeffrey Green Russell.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

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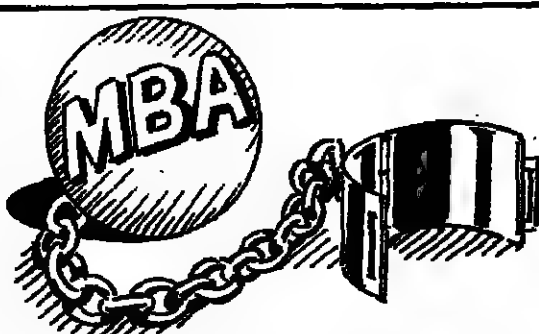
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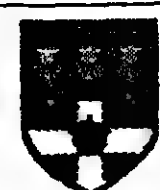
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EDUCATION

Where it all goes wrong

John O'Leary
analyses an
international
study of
primary school
teaching

Seldom can a piece of research have confirmed as many theories as this week's third International Mathematics and Science Study. It made depressing reading, in maths at least, but next month's analysis of the possible factors behind the results should be even more revealing.

The study, the largest and most reliable of its kind, showed nine-year-olds in Scotland and England languishing in the bottom third for maths of the 26 countries taking part. Like last November's tests of 13-year-olds, the research confirmed a long-suspected weakness in basic numbers work.

Only in geometry did English pupils top the table. In calculations involving whole numbers, English children registered fewer than 60 per cent correct answers, while those in Singapore managed almost 90 per cent.

The tables were turned in the science tests, where the extra time that English schools give the subject and its comparatively late introduction in some countries may have conferred an advantage. Most experts consider the maths results a more accurate benchmark of achievement.

What, then, accounts for Britain's slide down the international league table? Changes in the countries being assessed make it impossible to gauge the steepness of the decline. Nevertheless, the US, Canada and Ireland have all overtaken England since the last survey, in 1991.

Comparisons of teaching methods to be published in next month's report will strengthen the Government's hand in demanding changes in primary



Japanese children average two hours' less maths teaching each week than those in Britain, in classes that are larger

teaching. The leading countries are using more whole-class teaching, setting more homework and using calculators less than in England or Scotland.

The jury is out on the effect of class size: countries such as Hungary and Canada, which have smaller classes than England, do achieve better results. But top-rated Singapore has 11 pupils more per class on average and Japan has four more.

Nor is there a straightforward relationship between the amount of time spent on maths and national success in the tests. While Singaporean pupils spend about an hour a week more on the subject than their counterparts in England and Scotland, the Japanese,

with nearly two hours' less teaching, do almost as well.

The correlation is much stronger with traditionalist hobbyhorses such as the use of calculators, whole-class teaching and the amount of homework given to pupils. England and (even more so) Scotland are totally out of line with the countries used in the detailed comparisons on the proportion of time spent teaching the whole class.

Even the United States and The Netherlands devote five times more attention to this method of classroom organisation. Despite this, the penchant of British teachers for group work means that the proportion of time spent on individual tuition is lower

than in Holland and the US. The contrast is just as striking in the use of calculators. Effectively denied to nine-year-olds in Singapore and Japan, they were used more than once a week in more than half of the schools in England.

In the setting of homework, too, Britain is out of line with almost all the other nations, the exception being The Netherlands, where most nine-year-olds are not expected to work out of school. The proportion of English pupils set homework at least once a week is half that in Singapore, Hungary and America.

Government advisers will consider that the findings vindicate many of their recent initiatives, especially as most of the issues are common to all subjects. Calculator-free tests have already been introduced, Labour promised homework guidelines for primary schools before the election and the new Literacy Taskforce is certain to base its recommendations on greater use of whole-class teaching.

A Fabian Society seminar held in London this week suggested that there will be no let-up in the requirement for more traditional teaching methods. Though the Government was conscious of the

need to raise morale in the teaching profession and keen in theory to give staff more scope to make their own decisions, improving results was the priority. Central direction would be used where particular strategies were shown to work successfully.

Here lies one of the dilemmas facing ministers: the stated aim of combining "pressure and support" for schools is hard to put across successfully when different audiences have to be addressed.

Tuesday's much-trailed proposal for a "literacy hour" in primary schools, for example, was intended to give schools an opportunity to shape a much-needed initiative. By the time the small print of the announcement could be examined, however, the move had been portrayed as a crude response to failure.

Has anyone seen the tombola drum?

Over-excited children, collapsing tents . . . just some of the wonders of the school fête for Jane French

A procession of mothers bearing cakes reminds me that it is June, and that the school fête is once more upon us. I find myself frowning. It's not that I do not enjoy such worthy occasions, more that my children enjoy them too much — the journey home invariably involves one feeling sick and the other laughing or crying hysterically. On top of this, there is the baking, which, in my case, usually ends with a last-minute sprint to the shops in search of fruit loaves and chocolate sponges that could conceivably pass for home-made. There are compensations, not least of which is the delicious sense of assuming one's role in a quintessentially English idyll — or fiasco.

It all begins with anxious conversations in the playground as the parents' committee tries to drum up support — then finds itself fending off a series of takeover bids. Accusations fly as the tombola drum goes missing, and is finally discovered at the back of the cleaners' cupboard with last year's takings still inside. Assurances are given concerning safety precautions on the coconut shy, after what happened last year.

For the children, the fête would not be the same without the more active attractions. The ducking stool, especially if the headmaster can be bullied into participation, is always a good earner. And the greasy pole is a perennial source of pleasure, to children and fathers alike. Who could ever forget the year when one of the mothers, in shorts and an inexplicably wet T-shirt, decided to try her hand in this predominantly male preserve? By the time she had consigned one hefty chap to the mattress below, and looked set to do the same to a second, quite a crowd had gathered. Some of the fathers formed a queue and started up a chant. Would the headmaster have to intervene?

The mood changed only with an announcement over the PA system. Perhaps it was the tone of the announcement — commanding, female. Perhaps it was the news it bore — that the few remaining hot dogs, cakes and cream teas were now half-price. In any case, the queue of fathers turned as a body and swarmed across to the tea tent.

Then there was the business with the inflatable maze. For those unacquainted with such new-fangled attractions, an inflatable maze is a primary coloured network of plastic tunnels which billow and sway as you flounder through them. Children are prepared, indeed eager, to hand over their pocket money to be zipped in for several minutes at a time. Hidden from adult eyes, they hurtle

themselves around, chase one other and settle old scores.

One year, the mother on maze duty found herself confronted by a queue of noticeably larger children than usual. Recognition dawned slowly. The strapping six-footer, the blonde girl with a nose stud and a saxophone, the small boy with a huge cello in tow were all former pupils. Yes, they assured her, they really did want to go into the maze. They paid their money and wriggled in. There were sounds of fevered whispering behind the zippered flap, an outburst of giggling followed by a scuffling noise, then silence.

A heaving bulge in the blue tunnel suddenly alerted the duty-mother to the possibilities it afforded to hormonally charged adolescents. She fast-forwarded the timer and rang its bell.



The school fête: such joy, such anticipation

No response. She wondered whether to deflate the maze with the spike on the bottom of the cello. One of the fathers, meanwhile, took action. Unzipping the maze, he bellowed into its vastness: "Sarah, get yourself out of there — now!" A clutch of dishevelled adolescents emerged. Be warned.

By four o'clock, the mother selling ice-creams, who had insisted on remaining in sole charge all day, has been taken home with sunstroke. That is time to put the fête to bed for another year. It is the moment, also, for the good-time parents — who are congenitally averse to folding up trestle tables and carting chairs back to the hall — to make themselves scarce. Little do they realise that they are about to miss one of the highlights of the day, as a bunch of ever-helpful fathers let the tea tent down on top of a group of stragglers still tucking into their strawberries and cream.

Ah well, another point to be borne in mind next year . . .

HOW DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TEACH MATHS									
	Singapore	Japan	Netherlands	Hungary	United States	Canada	Scotland	ENGLAND	Norway
Lesson time hours/week	5.5	3.7	4.7	3.3	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.6	3.0
Average class size	39	32	24	22	24	24	28	28	19
Homework set at least once/week %	98	89	15	98	94	75	59	47	100
Teacher teaches whole class, most/every lesson %	88	79	60	53	54	37	3	11	84
Teacher teaches individuals, most/every lesson %	37	34	58	78	55	49	44	88	77
Pupils use calculators once a week or more %	1	1	4	14	39	29	—	23	1
Children who believe they do well in maths %	77	74	85	94	91	94	90	86	91

Scientists and engineers are taking a new look at executive education

Germany's vocational courses are the envy of the world and scientists and engineers in Wales are finding out for themselves how good they are.

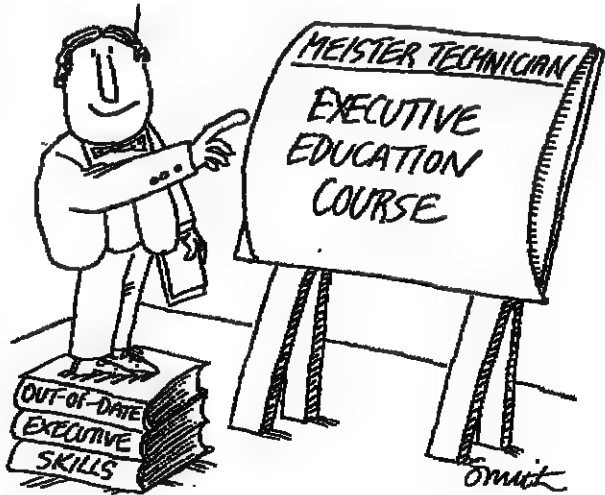
The Meister Technician programme — a system of executive education — has been introduced to Britain by the University of Glamorgan. The year-long programme, which aims to develop company managers, combines seminars and lectures with on-the-job training. The first participants embarked on the course last January. They are all in senior technical positions and have been earmarked by their employers as having managerial potential. They attend the university for six hours a week, have residential weekend sessions, 50 on industrial visits and undertake assignments within their companies. The programme is funded by the South Wales Tees, the Welsh Development Agency and the European Union, and it costs each participating company only £500.

Peter Lee, managing director of the plastics company Tubex, which has seconded its production manager, Andre Green, to the programme, says: "It is a good skills-based alternative to an MBA."

An engineer, Mr Green regards the course as valuable experience, particularly because he is able to update his technical skills as well as obtaining management experience. Mr Green, 34, is specialising in business planning, people management and financial decision-making. And, as he puts it, "by studying a range of topics I'm gaining a broad overview of general management. It is a useful method of enhancing new skills and improving performance."

For Mr Green, who began as an apprentice engineer, the programme will also pro-

When in Wales, do as the Germans do



vide credits towards a degree. The programme's co-ordinator, David Colebourne, of the university's business school, says: "Anyone who comes onto the programme with an HND will leave with a university degree. So, as well as learning new skills and enhancing their career potential, they will also have a qualification to show for their effort."

Some participants are already graduates. In the case of Carolyn Blossie, 25, a chemical analyst with Minton, Trearne Davies, a Cardiff-based environmental monitoring consultancy, the programme will provide credits towards a masters degree in environmental conservation management.

"The course has broadened my horizons by providing me

with a greater understanding of business considerations," she says. "I've already completed a business environment study unit which involved quite detailed financial analysis."

Having to give a presentation and produce a written document regarding the economics of the company, I gained a valuable insight into an area I knew little about. It's been very interesting to join the commercial and technical worlds together."

The University of Glamorgan embarked on the Meister Technician programme in response to a demand for more management training from the South Wales business community. Many companies felt that their technical staff

needed to improve their problem-solving, negotiation and leadership skills. They wanted a practical approach rather than the more theoretical MBA.

Mr Colebourne says: "They were looking for the all-round business skills that managers need if their companies are to succeed in a competitive environment. At the same time they wanted to make sure that staff were aware of the latest developments in their technical specialism. That is why we have included technical options that can be tailored to the needs of each participating company."

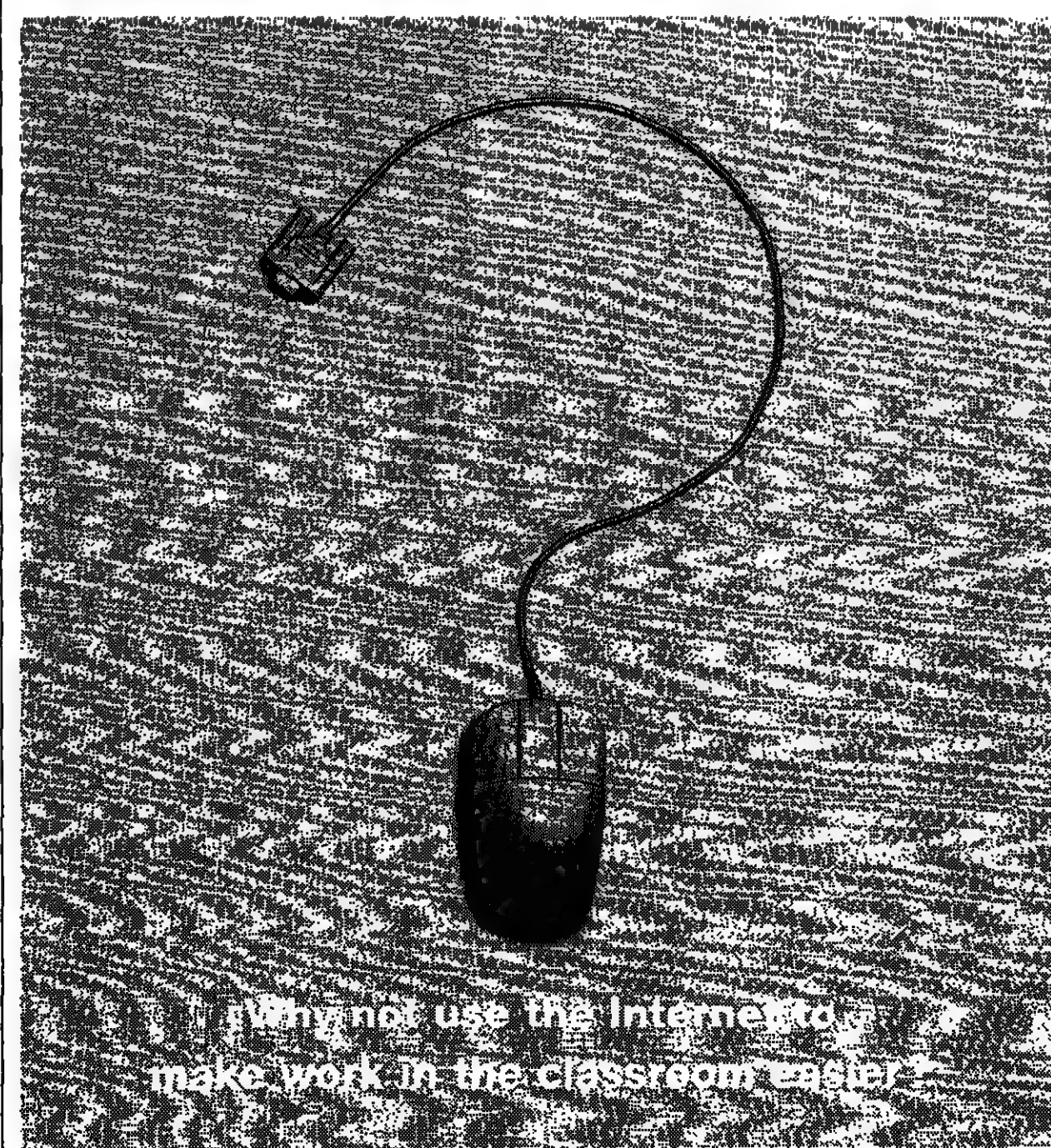
Among the options on offer this year are automation, information technology and product quality and reliability.

Now that the first pilot group of Meister trainees is almost halfway through the course, the university is preparing to welcome a second intake in September. Up to 30 newcomers are expected, with multinationals such as Sony submitting staff for the first time.

The programme is part of the university's commitment to lifelong learning and, according to Mr Colebourne, Glamorgan is determined to improve the business skills of the local workforce.

In the long term, the university hopes that the impact of the Meister programme will be felt across the UK. The university is negotiating with Tees about establishing and funding the programme elsewhere. It plans to franchise the course to universities and Tees. In that way, more British scientists and engineers will be able to cross the divide to management. And in so doing they will benefit their own careers and lift the competitiveness of British industry.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

European role for Deakin

By Christopher Irvine

IN TWO years as marketing executive, Peter Deakin helped transform the state and conformist Bradford Northern into the dynamic and successful Bradford Bulls. Attendances at Odsal have trebled to more than 15,000 and now his crusading style of promotion is being employed by Rugby League (Europe) to raise the profile of all 12 Super League clubs.

The appointment of Deakin, 43, as the marketing director of RLE — the clubs' promotional arm — is a progressive step. Not all the clubs have embraced summer rugby with Bradford's enthusiasm. "Rather than one club, I'll be selling 12 at a very exciting time for the sport," Deakin said.

Sonny Nickle and Bernard Dwyer return from injury to the Bradford squad tomorrow for their second world club championship game in pool A, against Auckland Warriors.

In the two pool B games today, Leeds hope to give Adelaide a more competitive game than Salford managed last Sunday. Castleford, who yesterday bought Brad Davis, an Australian half back, for an undisclosed fee from Wakefield, entertain Hunter Mariners.

Wild card for Johnson may force rule change

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GOLD medal-winners from the biennial track and field world championships are likely to be granted an automatic right to defend their titles after the event in Athens in August. Such a move would have to be considered by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) if USA Track and Field (USATF), the governing body in the United States, succeeds in gaining wild-card entries for leading athletes who are unable to compete in the US trials because of injury.

It has been reported from Indianapolis, where the trials are taking place, that USATF may seek direct entry into the world championships for Michael Johnson, Dan O'Brien, Gwen Torrence and Mike Powell — who are all injured — although they will not be selected for the national team. In the United States, the first three in the trials are named automatically.

Giorgio Reineri, the IAAF spokesman, said yesterday that while his organisation would do nothing without an official request from USATF, if one was forthcoming, there was a "good possibility" that it would be received favourably. It is Reineri's view that "the IAAF must change the rules to say that a reigning champion has the right to defend a title." Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, "is not against this idea", Reineri said.

However, to extend this



Johnson, who is injured, might yet defend his world title

right now to four Americans, or even one, may be inviting trouble and, if there is a case for Johnson, Torrence and O'Brien, world champions all, there is not for Powell, who is neither Olympic nor world champion. If these athletes are embraced, the United States would have four representatives in their respective events, giving them an unfair advantage. Other countries may then argue that they should be allowed their world champion plus three other athletes.

Roger Black may be the

Olympic 400 metres silver medal-winner, but this is evidently not good enough for the promoter of the Nuremberg meeting tonight. Black, who had been hoping to have his first serious run-out this season, has been told he is not wanted.

Black requested a lane six weeks ago. Curiously, other Britons have been accepted, but Black's manager, Michael Whittingham, said Black would simply get on with preparing for the European Cup next week.

ATHLETICS

SPORTS LETTERS

Phenomenon of football

From Mr John S. Hunter

Sir, There is one factor to add to your scientific explanations (June 5) of Roberto Carlos's goal for Brazil against France, arising from discoveries made by Osborne Reynolds towards the end of the last century.

For a spheroid in flight there is a critical velocity above which the aerodynamic characteristics are greatly enhanced as the drag force is reduced to approximately one quarter. In sport, only footballs are known to benefit from this phenomenon due to the combination of their diameter and their speed in a powerful shot such as the above example.

As the ball slows, it passes through the critical velocity and full drag is effected. Spin imparted to the ball would have effected a parabolic flight path but this will immediately change shape on the ball's speed dropping below the critical velocity. This is why the impression was given in this instance that "the curve became increasingly sharp towards the end".

The goalkeeper, of course, will have picked out the original flight path, hence the success of such shots. The necessity is that these are long-range shots such that the ball's speed does start well above, but late in its flight drops below, the critical velocity.

Yours etc.,
JOHN S. HUNTER,
Department of Sport Sciences,
Brunel University,
Borough Road,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex.

Weir latest in a long line

From Mr George Crawford

Sir, The cynical foul which may have ended the rugby career of Dottie Weir received a cynical response from yet another toothless rugby disciplinary tribunal in South Africa (report, June 10). I cannot help but wonder what all the fuss is about, for Weir is only one in a long line of players who have been badly let down by those entrusted with the preservation of a game which has always extolled the virtues of compliance with the laws of the game and good sportsmanship.

Is it any wonder, then, that Weir's father has said that "the matter will now have to be taken up with a higher authority," and who can blame him? What he means by higher authority is open to speculation, but since a senior member of the South African RFU, Henrie Erasmus, has stated that "the laws prevented us from suspending the player," one can only assume that Weir and his father will be consulting a member of the legal profession.

Over the years I have complained about players receiving little or no protection on the field from the rugby authorities. When, as a senior police officer and senior referee, I warned them that if we did not sort out the problem of premeditated acts of violence on the field, then the police would become involved, I received a less than enthusiastic response.

It gives me no pleasure to

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Accord over jumping seat

From Mrs Jane Goldsmith

Sir, To correct any misunderstanding from the article by Jenny MacArthur (June 4), as chairman of the British Horse Society (BHS) training and education committee, would like to make clear that there has never been any disagreement between us about the establishment of a classical jumping seat (riding position in the saddle). This reflects policies in the rest of the world, notably the United States, France and Germany.

To launch this initiative in this country the BHS has started a new competition for young riders with the focus on "style" and "effectiveness". The BHS training and education committee has worked closely in the past with the Pony Club and hopes to continue to do so, even though the Pony Club is now independent from the BHS.

Yours faithfully,
JANE GOLDSMITH,
Chairman, Training and education committee,
The British Horse Society,
Stoneleigh Park,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Main function

From Mr Bill Higginson

Sir, As a cricket coach of some 40 years, I should be interested to hear what Graeme Fowler, in his role as coach at the Centre of Excellence at Durham, actually teaches the "lads" in ways of "distracting" batsmen (Extra, June 11)?

Surely he would be better engaged by coaching fielders to concentrate on their main function, ie, to bowl straight, be alert and participate in the true spirit of the game.

Yours faithfully,
BILL HIGGINSON,
Development Officer, Powys, Cricket Board of Wales,
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5. Application closes on 30 June 97 (Monday).

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Irani's late show puts Essex in the driving seat

prevent Shivnarine Chanderpaul from playing for West Indies in the first Test match against Sri Lanka, which starts today at the Recreation Ground, Kingstown, St Vincent.



If Rhodes was wrong to bat first, he compensated by producing the most resolute batting of the day. His first 50 took 139 balls and he and Lampitt added 124 in 53 overs before Rhodes was bowled by Alleyne.

Both times Glamorgan were exposed. Middlesex bowled too many loose balls to take advantage. Maynard counter-attacked with his usual flair and dash, and Cottee hit a trio of cover drives he could go weeks without bettering. To concede 13 fours in a five-wicket

peared into a change, but also Shine and Van Troost had been replaced by Caddick and Rose. Suddenly, it became a different game. For a while, the ball jagged around off the seam and hostility replaced waywardness, but it was nothing like that for the Hampshire tail, or when Somerset battered

matches in succession. The members will not care for that. Surrey opted to bat on a dry, white pitch which was giving Stemp considerable assistance before lunch. Alas, he was the sole spinner Yorkshire fielded, although White had a stab at bowling off spin before the

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 13 1997

CRICKET: ASTLE DRIVES AUSTRALIANS TO DISTRACTION WITH SWIFT 99 AT TRENT BRIDGE

Reiffel fires early shots in battle for Test place

By SIMON WILDE

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of three: The Australians won 108; The Australians with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 188 runs behind Nottinghamshire)

THE trouble with being regarded as world champions — whether the label is official or not — is that everyone wants to have a go at you. Having been given an uncomfortable ride by English players and spectators for the past month, the Australians yesterday found themselves driven to distraction by a New Zealander.

Some Australians think New Zealanders exist for no other purpose than to get under the skin but, even so, they could have done without Nathan Aspinall making his presence quite so obviously felt. For 2½ hours he carved them around Trent Bridge for 99 runs from 100 balls, 73 of them coming between lunch and tea and 61 in boundaries.

But for him, their seamers might have congratulated themselves on making excellent use of favourable conditions; instead, they had to be content with dismissing Nottinghamshire for 239.

McGrath claimed four wickets — the last four of the innings — and Reiffel, in his first appearance of the tour, three for 15 from ten overs. There were seven catches for the wicketkeeper-slips cordon.

Astle had been looking forward to this meeting. He has his eye on a place on New Zealand's tour of Australia later this year, which made the way he played all the more extraordinary. He seemed determined to play one stroke and one stroke alone: an extravagant square drive.

Not that he played it faultlessly. The ball flew off the bat's edge as much as the middle and the more the Australians glared, in the end, the stroke cost him his wicket when a ball of extra bounce from McGrath relocated his outside edge and was caught by Elliott at second slip.



Reiffel bowls the ball that had Dowman, the Nottinghamshire opener, caught by Julian for 22 yesterday

from a good-sized Trent Bridge crowd grateful to have some cricket to watch after the first day's wash-out.

To some extent, Astle distorted the touring team's performance, because they bowled better after lunch than they had before, when they conceded fewer runs but generally chose the wrong line and a poor length. They claimed only the wickets of the openers, Welford and

Dowman, who gave Reiffel his first scalp with his twelfth ball.

Although he had the least to show for it, Kasprorowicz was the pick of the bowlers. He showed genuine pace, beat the bat regularly and broke the only partnership worthy of the name. Astle's third-wicket stand of 77 from 20 overs with Alzar.

With Kasprorowicz and McGrath assured of Test places, Australia's thoughts

have switched to the identity of the man who should back this new-ball pair at Lord's next week. The relative performances of Reiffel and Julian were significant. Reiffel, understandably nursing himself back into action, bowled two short spells but consistently put the ball in the right spot.

Julian, on the other hand, bowled 18 overs at a cost of 70 runs and mixed his customary allowance of no-balls and

wides with a woefully erratic line. Whenever he strayed outside off stump, Astle punished him mercilessly.

Australia restricted their losses to one wicket before the close only with difficulty. The man to fall was Slater, who failed to make his first innings for a month count by unwisely attempting to pull a straight ball from Evans. Like Julian, he is making it hard for Australia to look his way.

Clarke lifts Derbyshire spirits

By PAT GIBSON

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Derbyshire won 108; Warwickshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 140 runs behind Derbyshire)

IF Dean Jones felt that the Derbyshire players did not give him enough support, goodness knows what Phillip DeFreitas, his successor, was thinking last night. Had it not been for Vince Clarke, who fell one run short of a maiden first-class century, Derbyshire might have lost two captains in one day.

Mind you, DeFreitas was asking for trouble. Mark Taylor is the only previous captain to have opted to bat first at Edgbaston this season so it was not altogether surprising that Derbyshire, in their

present state, made an even worse start than Australia.

Perhaps DeFreitas felt that with Donald, Munton and Small all missing through injury, the Warwickshire attack was there for the taking. But Dougie Brown swiftly disabused him on a pitch that was green and bouncy.

His first ball spar at Barnett who could only edge it to second slip where Knight took a brilliant one-handed catch. His fifth ball was short, and lifting and Rollins obligingly hooked it to long leg. Then, in his next over, Brown nipped one back to claim Adams leg before. Derbyshire were four for three and it was soon 16 for four when Owen was caught, at third slip.

Brown had taken four for

nine in 5.3 overs but that was as far as he got. Clarke, yet another of the growing band of Anglo-Australians, reacted positively to the crisis and with Tim Tweats staunch at the other end, the next 50 runs came from only 45 balls.

Helped by a couple of dropped catches, they went on to add 108 in 35 overs for the fifth wicket before Tweats was bowled at the start of a good spell by Neil Smith, who went on to take three more wickets. But he could not dislodge Clarke, who did not even seem too perturbed by the fact that Malcolm was his last remaining partner. He had reached 99 in just over three hours when he tried to cut Giles and was caught behind. He deserved better.

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four: Lancashire won 108; Kent have scored 151 for five wickets against Lancashire)

IT IS perhaps as well that play did not begin until 3.15 yesterday. A full day could easily have yielded the 15 wickets that precipitate a visit from the pitches inspector, so frequently did ball pass bat.

With that in mind, Kent, beaten just twice in all competitions this season, will not be quite as upset with their progress in the 32 overs bowled as a score of 151 for five would ordinarily dictate. The pitch is verdant and the emerald appearance has not, so far, deceived. Indeed, when Glen Chapple produced a bouncer that soared over Jamie

Haynes, the wicketkeeper, for four byes, Martin McCague must have been rubbing his hands in anticipation.

Dean Headley is missing because of his persistent back injury, but that is nothing alongside Lancashire's injury problems. Even Dav Wharmore, the coach, is in the wars after splitting his thumb during fielding practice this week. Among the troops, Galian and Hegg are out and so, more crucially, are Peter Martin and Wasim Akram. How that latter pair would have enjoyed themselves yesterday.

None of the Kent top order was ever "in", not even the left-handed Walker, who made the top score, of 45. In treacherous conditions, Kent rightly decided to play their strokes rather

than prod around. As a result, all five dismissals were to catches behind the stumps, two to the wicketkeeper and three to the slips.

Fulton was particularly uncertain against Chapple, who eventually induced an edge, while Ward could not resist a rising delivery from Shadford and offered a routine chance to Haynes. Walker gave Shadford a second wicket in his next over and Fleming gave another catch to Haynes when Austin darted one away.

Wells, unbeaten on 31, had been dropped by Lloyd on one and six. How expensive those misses were will become apparent today, although Lloyd atoned, in part, with a superb diving effort to account for Ealham.

Hamed learns value of ABC

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NASEEM HAMED plans to make a big impression on American sports fans. The next defence of his International Boxing Federation (IBF) and World Boxing Organisation titles will be made on ABC television and not Showtime, the cable company that has so far featured the charismatic featherweight.

The bout will not take place in the United States, as had been expected, but at Wembley Arena on July 19. Through ABC, it is expected to have an audience of around 200 million. An opponent has not yet been finalised, but the most likely one is Hector Lizarraga of the United States, the No 1 IBF contender.

Hamed's promoter, Frank Warren, said that Don King, Warren's partner, had wanted to put Hamed on the card of a significant promotion in the United States on the same day, but Warren prefers to have the Sheffield man heading his own show.

Warren had hoped to put on a unification bout against Wilfredo Vasquez, the World Boxing Association champion, or Luisito Espinoza, who holds the World Boxing Council title, but neither was available. However, Warren said it was almost certain that, after Lizarraga, Hamed would meet one of them.

The audience on ABC will be 40 or 50 times bigger than on Showtime. It's a big chance for Naz to impress on American television and after that we'll go into a deal with Showtime or HBO," Warren said. "This fight is very important for us because another American company has got behind a British boxer."

The promotion at Wembley by Warren is a breakthrough. He had been trying for 18 years to put on a show at the venue but was not able to secure a booking.

IN BRIEF

Seeds make smooth progress

THE top three seeds advanced to the quarter-finals of the DFS Classic tennis tournament at Edgbaston yesterday, without dropping a set in their third-round matches. Irina Spilrea, of Romania, the No 1 seed, proved too powerful for the unseeded Nicole Pietrangeli of the United States, winning 6-3, 6-4.

Nathalie Tauziat, of France, the No 2 seed, also encountered few problems in beating Olga Barabanshikova, of Belarus, 7-5, 6-1, while Lisa Raymond, the No 3 seed, overcame her doubles partner, Miriam Oremans, 6-3, 7-6.

Jordan recovers

Basketball: Michael Jordan recovered from a stomach complaint to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 90-87 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night, leaving the champions one win away from their fifth National Basketball Association title in seven years. Jordan, who played for all but four minutes, scored 38 points. The sixth game in the best-of-seven series is in Chicago tonight.

Selwyn go clear

Rowing: Selwyn forged well clear at the top of the women's second division on the second day of the Cambridge University May Races yesterday. 1st and 3rd Trinity made their second bump this week by catching Giron coming out of Ditton Corner. In the middle re-row, Peterhouse men caught St Catharine's.

Boardman doubt

Cycling: Rochester hosts the seventh in the series of ten World Cup road races on August 17 but Chris Boardman may not be there. If the world pursuit champion fares well in the Tour de France in July, he may miss the World Cup race to prepare for the Tour of Spain in September.

Little favourite

Powerboating: Peter Little and Dave Arthur, his co-driver, won the second leg of the three-race two-litre world championship off Guernsey, making them favourites to take the title in the final race tomorrow. The Oxford pair led from shortly after the start, the choppy seas suiting their monohull. Ulrik Ingvarsson, from Sweden, their closest rival, dropped out with a seized engine.

Krajicek beaten

Tennis: Richard Krajicek, of Holland, lost to Richey Reneberg in the second round of the Gerry Weber Open in Halle, Germany, yesterday. The American failed to break the Wimbledon champion's service but won 4-6, 7-6, 7-6.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MAY ROWING RACES

MAY HAVING RACES 32																						
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Hoy scores personal best in dressage test

By JENNY MACARTHUR

UNDISTURBED by the shrieks of the resident peacocks, Andrew Hoy, a member of Australia's Olympic gold medal-winning team in Atlanta, took the lead at the rain-soaked Bramham International Horse Trials yesterday after an exceptional dressage test on Swizzle In, a horse he first sat on two weeks ago.

Hoy, 38, produced a test of such accuracy and elegance that it earned four scores of nine (out of ten), one of which was for the difficult "flying change". His score of 37 was Hoy's best in a career that includes team gold medals at the last two Olympics. "I always have my best ride when someone else has trained the horse," he said.

Swizzle In's owner, Gina Flood, based in Wiltshire, is the trainer responsible, with regular help from Britain's leading dressage rider, Emil Faurie. Flood retired on the horse at Punchestown last month and Hoy was asked to take over the ride when she had to return to her native Bermuda to rearrange her visa.

Mark Todd, New Zealand's dual Olympic gold medal-winner, in second place on

Broadcast News, also deflected the credit for his impressive performance. "He's been very well trained," Todd said, referring to the horse's previous rider, Vicky Latta.

With Pippa Funnell, the runner-up at Punchestown, a close third, on Emma Lewin-Hughes's magnificent Supreme Rock, and Ian Stark in fourth place on his chance rider, Positive Rain, no quarter will be given in the speed and endurance phase.

None of the leaders can afford complacency. Hoy has had just one cross-country school on Swizzle In and intends to pay "close attention" to the corners on Mark Phillips's 33-fence course.

Todd had a fall at Poplar Park, his first event with Broadcast News, while Stark will be hoping his brakes work. For Positive Rain ran away with his usual rider, Jonquil Hemming, at Punchestown. Funnell's successes with Supreme Rock have been punctuated by the odd hiccup, most recently at Longleat ten days ago.

LEADERS (after first day of dressage): 1, Swizzle In (A Hoy, Aust) 37.0; 2, Broadcast News (M Todd, NZ) 36.0; 3, Supreme Rock (P Funnell, GB) 35.0; 4, Positive Rain (I Stark, GB) 34.0; 5, William on Water (M Ryan, Aus) 33.0; 6, Wilton Hill (N McConnell, GB) 32.0.

HOCKEY

Late penalty brings win for England

ENGLAND added to the list of recent British sporting successes by defeating Pakistan, the World Cup holders, 4-3 on the opening day of the Rabobank International tournament here in Breda yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes).

Russell Garcia converted a penalty stroke with five minutes left to put England ahead in an extraordinary match. At half-time, Pakistan were happily launched with an arguably flattering 2-0 lead, but they were unable to prevent a strong counterattacks by their opponents in the second half.

England took charge in the early minutes but could not translate their territorial advantage into goals. Pakistan responded to the early pressure with two goals by Kamran Ashraf, who should have had a third but for poor ball control. England's second-half offensive gained them three goals in quick succession, all resulting from short corners — Giles (twice), and Lee the beneficiaries.

Pakistan renewed their efforts and levelled the score in the 64th minute but Garcia's penalty brought a first England victory over Pakistan since the World Cup tournament in Sydney in 1994.

GOLF

Moodie blows away the blues

By PATRICIA DAVIES

MOODIE the unready was transformed into Moodie the merciful as the leading qualifier recovered from a poor start to stroke her way imperiously into the third round of the British women's amateur championship at a sudden Cruden Bay yesterday.

Janice Moodie took time to warm up on a morning that had the club chief rejoicing that he worked in the kitchen. After five holes, the Curtis Cup veteran was three down to Clare Lipscombe, of Cirencester, but, 22 holes later, Moodie had disposed of the

Gloucestershire woman and Claire Hargan, a fellow Scot unfortunate enough to meet her in the second round.

Moodie was three under par for the 11 holes played in the afternoon and was back inside before the first round had been completed.

Mhairi McKay, who left San Francisco on Friday, coped with the change in temperature — "You know you're home," she said. The Scot proved too experienced for Becky Brewerton, the 14-year-old Welsh girl who exceeded all expectations in

her first championship, and then survived a tough battle against Lesley Nicholson, a Scotland international.

McKay now plays her Curtis Cup team-mate, Karen Stupples, but Elaine Ratcliffe, another Curtis Cup player, was undone, for the second year in a row, by Becky Morgan, of Wales, the runner-up at Hoylake last year.

Morgan, fresh from university in North Carolina, would prefer drier conditions today, as would most players. The only exception might be Morgan's next opponent, Sarah Sanderson, of The Berkshire, who made the astounding claim that she liked the weather. "It's like being on exercise," the Auburn-haired 30-year-old said cheerfully, having just beaten Wendy Warrington, the last of the South African contingent, at the 18th.

Sanderson has served in the Army — "I did all the rough stuff" — and she had needed all that ingrained toughness (her father was an Army man) to outlast Louise Davis, a Wales international, in the first round. The Englishwoman had to pull her own trolley and she reckoned that it was stubbornness that pulled her through at the 17th. "I just refused to give in," she said.

RESULTS FROM CRUDEN BAY

FIRST ROUND: J Moodie (Wendy) 10 and 2; C Lipcombe (Clare) 10 and 2; G Morgan (Becky) 10 and 2; S Sanderson (Sarah) 10 and 2; M McKay (Mhairi) 10 and 2; K Stupples (Karen) 10 and 2; E Ratcliffe (Elaine) 10 and 2; B Brewerton (Becky) 10 and 2; L Nicholson (Lesley) 10 and 2; A McKay (Mhairi) 10 and 2; W Warrington (Wendy) 10 and 2; S Morgan (Sarah) 10 and 2; C Hargan (Claire) 10 and 2; G Lipscombe (Glen) 10 and 2; J Moodie (Janice) 10 and 2; K Stupples (Karen) 10 and 2; E Ratcliffe (Elaine) 10 and 2; B Brewerton (Becky) 10 and 2; L Nicholson (Lesley) 10 and 2; A McKay (Mhairi) 10 and 2; W Warrington (Wendy) 10 and 2; S Morgan (Sarah) 10 and 2; C Hargan (Claire) 10 and 2; G Lipscombe (Glen) 10 and 2; J Moodie (Janice) 10 and 2; K Stupples (Karen) 10 and 2; E Ratcliffe (Elaine) 10 and 2; B Brewerton (Becky) 10 and 2; L Nicholson (Lesley) 10 and 2; A McKay (Mhairi) 10 and 2; W Warrington (Wendy) 10 and 2; S Morgan (Sarah) 10 and 2; C Hargan (Claire) 10 and 2; G Lipscombe (Glen) 10 and 2; J Moodie (Janice) 10 and 2; 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Tait is given chance to claim place on left wing

He is also happy that injuries appear to be clearing up.

England), R Hill (Saracens and England), E Miller (Leicester and Ireland) Replacements: N Beal (Northampton and England), M Catt (Bath and England), M Dawson (Northampton and England), M Regan (Bristol and England), J Leonard (Hartpools and England), J Wainwright (Waterquins/Army and Scotland)

Villeneuve still finds a smile after his brush with the authorities in Paris this week

Villeneuve determined to repay debt of loyalty

his father, Gilles, had been threatened

In return, the French-speaking Quebecois empathise with Villeneuve's disdain for authority. This is a singular city, which staged a ratepayers' revolt when the authorities threatened to ban unpasteurised cheese. Villeneuve is its favourite son, and is ready to repay its loyalty.

**'His status as favourite
does not offer immunity
from official displeasure'**

SOLUTION TO WIN

1 Rgo: Kh3 tl ... Qrgh 2 Qh4 is imm to follow.

NG CHESS MOVE
 mate! 2 Qg5 with a swift mate

A poetic homecoming

emblematic, territory where resides a strange and wonderful army of people who listen to BBC radio output with ears straining for every slip and especially, for every sign that standards are falling. In the past the procedure has been that they would write a slip letter to *Feedback* and a BBC producer, who would then be expected to come on the programme and parrot the listener's comments, giving more furious letters. But one thing has changed for the better of late: the BBC types get a yellow card from on high if they parrotise listeners on *Feedback*, a development which is a small triumph for the presenter Chris Dunkley and his team.

Artist Clyde Holmes (BBC2, 8:00pm)

surprised out in having O'ne's name on the list. But the world according to Cooper, every middle-aged man is having an affair with a younger woman. One remedy for the wives would be to file for divorce. But Cooper allows them to have their revenge by taking a toyboy lover, in the decidedly handsome shape of one Lysander Hawley. He is played by the more conventionally named Stephen Bilington, who will have more testing parts as his career progresses. The same can be said for the rest of the cast, who continue to battle gamely with uncompromising dialogue. **Peter Wayne**

Wells Cathedral is one of the most glorious buildings in the English vernacular style, and which is a treasure of archaeological poetry. Not only does Wells look good but its acoustics have the purity of a bell, so listeners who have visited the cathedral will get an imaginative and aural thrill from this concert, recorded by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle, with the soprano Judith Howarth. The works, which reflect the Resurrection theme at this year's festival, are *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima* by Boulez, *Requiem* by Britten, *Requiem* by Mahler, the upbeat vision of victory in Messiaen's *Et Exspecto Resurrectionem Mortuorum*, Mahler's fourth symphony completes the evening. Peter Barnard

RAD

8.00am On Air, with Penny Gore Includes Mozart (Symphony No 25 in G minor, K183); Malcolm

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 98.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WJLB CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.8;** MW 105.8. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian McNamara and John McNamara**

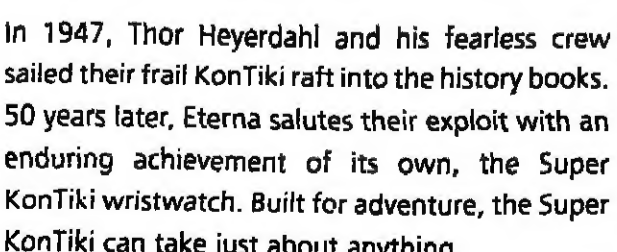
Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyte
(FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark
Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

Quartets, the pianist John Ogden, the Beaux Arts Trio and songs sung by the soprano April Candeia

8.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-
WRLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am).
197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Hughes, Rosemary Smith. Susan Thompson. Jane

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

PROCESS

(c) An oscillator, in which the oscillations build up to a certain amplitude and then cease for a time before beginning again the production of such oscillations. 1939, *Radio Amateurs' Handbook*: "Too much feedback will cause the oscillator to 'squegger' or operate at several frequencies simultaneously."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rg6! Kh3 (1 ... Qxg6 2 Qh4 is immediate mate) 2 Qg5 with a swift mate to follow.

They pass their Peak, but fly ever higher

If you want to get ahead in the medical profession, go to Cardale. From there it's the fast-track straight to the glittering, if rather chilly, prize of Cambridge. Amanda Burton won't first — a couple of hard-working series at the Beeches in *Peak Practice* and Whoon... suddenly she's Dr Sam Ryan, the Cambridge pathologist who insists on solving everything herself, in *Silent Witness*.

Last night, it was Simon Shepherd's turn. He had to put in three-and-a-half series in Cardale, but his rickety old car arrived in the end. Suddenly he's Dr Sam Bliss, the Cambridge immunologist who insists on putting everything himself in Bliss (ITV). As he attended his first post-mortem, I half wondered whether the two former colleagues might bump into each other... Their eyes would meet across the cadaver. "Do you two know each other?" an unsuspecting assistant would ask. "It was a long time

ago," a Sam would reply, flashing a wistful look over the top of the green surgical mask. "Drill."

Sadly it was not to be — Ryan must have been off that day, so Bliss (you'd really have to go into research with a surname like that, wouldn't you?) had to solve the mystery of why several students on his anti-malaria research programme had suddenly started committing suicide. Side-effects? asked his computer software. Da.

Like Ryan before him, Cambridge seems to have put Bliss into a permanent bad temper, despite the fact that the scriptwriters have thoughtfully provided him with an attractive office-wife (Sian Webber). The two spent a lot of last night walking around explaining bits of science to each other (as you do with highly qualified colleagues) but failed to conceal the fact that Bliss is not nice. He experiments on animals, believes

the ethics committee are a bunch of "scientifically illiterate amateurs" and he got very cross indeed when his new boss cancelled his research programme altogether. How ridiculous — the death toll had only got to three.

Now at this point, things were shaping up quite nicely. There were echoes of *Dangerfield* in Bliss's domestic arrangements (widower, two teenage children) and echoes of *Fawlty Towers* in whatever it was this conspiracy of young medical students were up to. It was when we discovered what they were up to that this skilful construction started to fall apart.

"What's going on?" shrieked Dr Kilpatrick (Webber), who may be highly qualified, but as a woman is allowed to ask that sort of question when confronted with a callow youth with electrodes plastered to his head. "Some sort of memory

REVIEW

Matthew Bond



transfer," replied Bliss, who being a man and the star, is expected to get that sort of thing right first time. Bleep, bleep went my implausibility alarm.

It may be that as the series goes on we will become accustomed to these sudden departures into the scientific left field. But until we do, I'm afraid it's a case of suppressing the giggles. Memory transfer it was, with Professor Fiedler's stu-

dents kicking off with Russian (plus a few suicidal tendencies that got transferred accidentally), but quickly moving on to bigger things, such as the entire contents of Fiedler's brain. "Do you know how often a mind like mine comes along?" asked the brilliant, but terminally ill Fiedler, a line which should surely win Lorcan Cranitch a Bafta for best-kept straight face. Ah, but did he know how often a series like *Bliss* comes along? Tell me that.

There was more Russian in Airport (BBC1) and thank heaven for it. Until Jeremy proved that he wasn't check-in supervisor for Aeroflot for nothing, the series had been even duller than I remembered. What passed as high drama at Heathrow was whether the Latvian flag would be hoisted over the royal suite in time for the arrival of the Latvian President, and whether Michelle and her walkie-talkie could find the owner

of the car in the Terminal 3 car park that had burst into flames. It was and she did; panics over. But, alas, not the programme.

There was still Jeremy and the aircrew trying to check in about half a tonne of excess baggage. "In Russia there's an underlying system of barter, negotiation and friendly smiles," explained our man, flashing a friendly smile to prove it. Unforgivably, considering the time this tedious tale had taken up, we never did discover whether the aircrew paid the £20-a-kilo going rate. But given that at least one model plane and several friendly smiles had been exchanged, I presume not.

"After all that, the flight to Moscow took off only eight minutes late," explained John Nettles, sounding every bit as bored as I felt. Only another nine to go — can't wait.

No more episodes of 999 (BBC1).

which is both sad and yet something of a relief. Last night they signed off for the time being with three more terrifying re-creations, the morals of which can be quickly summarised: never go for a walk on the sands at Morecambe Bay, always keep a fire extinguisher in your car and, please, try not to fall off Cheddar Gorge. Even halfway down is an awfully long way.

The chap stuck up his chest in Morecambe Bay, quicksand! Nature's concrete, as Michael Buerk picturesquely put it, was widely reported at the time, which perhaps explains why the director felt he could add one or two extra artistic flourishes of his own to the re-creation.

Our trapped man shook his fists at the gathering sky (not to mention the gathering tide) and while he imagined the worst, we actually saw it. Slowly, the waves lapped over his head... 999 goes Gothic whatever next?

6.00am Business Breakfast (71787)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (78145)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5793332)

9.20 Chuggers Challenge (3612418)

9.45 Kilroy (T) (9166503)

10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (28435)

11.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (2154985)

11.05 Real Rooms Transforming a Scottish woman's dining room (7061885)

11.30 The Great Escape (3688)

12.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (1787690)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (5823394)

12.35 Neighbours (T) (4887110)

1.00 News (T) and weather (78232)

1.30 Regional News (15741481)

1.40 The Weather Show (38946400)

1.45 Quincey (3752145)

2.30 Columbo: Publish or Perish (1974) with Peter Falk. A ruthless publisher hires a hit man to kill an author who has threatened to sign for a rival company (8142400)

3.45 Time Off with Gloria Gloria Hunniford catches up with singer Lorna Luft, daughter of screen legend Judy Garland, as she works out in a top London gymnasium (3740329)

4.00 Popeye (5835823) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (5906226) 4.35 Caresse Explains It All (5043630) 5.00 Newsworld (T) (8767503) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (7424706)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (413771)

6.00 News (T) and weather (110)

6.30 Regional News (890)

7.00 Weekend Watchdog Johnathan Maitland reports from Johnathan's West End, finding out how theoregians can avoid paying through the nose when booking tickets. Last in series (5868)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (874)

8.00 X Cars Cameras follow undercover cops Phil Sealey and Steve Lewis as they stake out a car park (T) (7415)

8.30 Auntie's Sporting Blooms Terry Wogan introduces clips of mishaps and mistakes in the world of sport (T) (3023)

9.00 News (T) and weather (3503)

9.30 Drivers' Gold Aaron and Elizabeth uncover shocking family secrets, while tensions mount among the men when the hard-boiled detective (T) (3/5) (385313)

10.25 Alive (582) Hanovering true-life drama, with Ethan Hawke and Vincent Spano, a plane carrying a college rugby team smashes into a mountain in the Andes, forcing the survivors to resort to cannibalism to stay alive. Directed by Frank Marshall (819042) WALES: 10.25 The Gert Escape (503955) 10.35 FILM: Alive (1933044) 12.35 FILM: True Colours (819852) 2.45 News headlines and weather (3845658)

12.25am True Colours (1991) with John Cusack. A principled lawyer witnesses the fall from grace of his former colleague who has resorted to dirty tricks in an effort to further his political career. Directed by Herbert Ross (879004)

2.15 Weather (2003358)

6.00am Open University: Family Centre (3218042) 6.25 Relationships (9408061)

7.15 See Hear Broadcast News (T) (1010787)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (855481) 7.55 5050 (T) (2047042)

8.20 Fireman Sam (T) (4819049) 8.35 The Record (277055)

9.00 The French Experience (5604394) 9.15 The French Collection (384139) 9.45 Watch (4102110)

10.00 Teletubbies (T) (55597) 10.30 Watch Out (4159329) 10.45 Pathways of Belief: Judaism — The Family (4074884) 11.00 Look and Read Special (5358574) 11.20 Job Bank (2156023) 11.30 The Geography Programme (4110)

12.00 English Film: Poetry Backstage The poetry of Grace Nichols (17323)

12.30pm Working Lunch (54771) 1.00 Daytime on Two: Job Bank (1033023)

1.10 Job Bank (45531400) 1.20 Lifestyles (5088400) 1.45 Words and Pictures (15831058) 2.00 Fireman Sam (T) (83538110)

2.10 International Tennis Sue Barker introduces extensive coverage of the quarter-finals of the Stella Artois Championships (88522597)

6.00 The Simpsons Marge wins a commission from Mr Burns. Featuring the voice of Ringo Starr (T) (697787)

6.30 Star Trek: The Enterprise is overrun by small grey creatures (T) (595848)

7.10 Great Railway Journeys Black American scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr returns to his African roots, travelling by rail from Zimbabwe to Tanzania. Last in series (T) (378348)

8.00 Visions of Sawdust A painter and poet's view (T) (5058)

8.30 Gardeners' World from the National Flower and Garden Show (T) (1655)

9.00 The Fast Show Paul Whitehouse's comedy sketch show with Caroline Aherne, Charlie Higson and Simon Day (T) (5145)

9.30 The Bill Lines goes undercover to convict a notorious car thief (T) (9884)

8.30 See You Friday Last of the series about a long distance relationship. With Neil Pearson and Joanna Roth (T) (1619)

9.00 The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous (2/3) (T) (7313)

10.00 News (T) and weather (32884)

10.30 The West Tonight Update (159771)

10.35 Pollen Count (506145)

10.40 Sounds of the West: Straight Out of Bristol transcending the rise of Massed Attack, Tricky and Portishead. Last in series (900464)

11.15 A Taste for Killing (1992) with Michael Biehn, Henry Thomas and Jason Bateman. Two graduates are implicated in murder while working on an oil rig during the summer. Directed by Lou Antonio (29236)

1.00am Strangers (1991) with James Healey, Anne Looby and Melissa Ducker. A handsome, successful businessman embarks on an affair with a woman who gradually begins to exhibit psychotic tendencies. Directed by Craig Lahiff (910044)

2.40 Club Nation (T) (6262172) 3.40 Bonkers (T) (6468202) 4.35 Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (T) (8198240) 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (84646) 5.30 News (37153)

2.25-2.30 Weather (2042578)

6.00am GMTV (5672619)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (T) (3620435)

9.55 Regional News (T) (4241888)

10.00 The Time, the Place (52023)

10.30 This Morning (T) (85768348)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (1783874)

12.30 News (T) and weather (4786435)

12.55 Designed by Emanuel (T) (4698226)

1.25 Home and Away (T) (90891597)

1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (5133400)

2.50 Garden Calendar (2461503)

3.20 News (T) (3892323)

3.25 Regional News (T) (338503)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (T) (3749690) 3.40 Film Pig (5822771) 3.50 Cartoon Time (3750708) 4.05 The Treasure People (9808082) 4.15 Hey Arnold (T) (9906655) 4.40 Get Wet (T) (620840)

5.10 A Country Practice (581400)

5.37 Pollen Count (247706)

5.40 News (T) and weather (789077)

6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (503874)

6.25 HTV Weather (318655)

6.30 The West Tonight (T) (918)

7.00 Lucky Numbers (T) (5856)

7.30 Coronation Street Rita's Melina to the Duckworth's is severed by Alec (T) (482)

8.00 The Bill Lines goes undercover to convict a notorious car thief (T) (9884)

8.30 See You Friday Last of the series about a long distance relationship. With Neil Pearson and Joanna Roth (T) (1619)

9.00 The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous (2/3) (T) (7313)

10.00 News (T) and weather (32884)

10.30 The West Tonight Update (159771)

10.35 Pollen Count (506145)

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As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4698226)

2.50-3.20 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2461503)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8581400)

6.25-7.00 Central News (788771)

10.40 Film: Who's Harry Cumber? (74474771)

12.20am The Making of a Lie (8671375)

12.30 Film: Deadly Encounter (995714)

2.35 Cyber Cafe (2038917)

3.05 Bonkers (187378)

4.00 Hester Skelton (7951882)

4.50 Central Jobfinder '97 (81990085)

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